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Wrapper I

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, His Excellency the Governor **Dr. K. Rosaiah, paid floral** tributes to a portrait of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru placed near his statue in connection with his 126th birth anniversary on 14.11.2014.

Wrapper IV

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. O. Panneerselvam** placed a wreath and paid homage at the Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar memorial in Ramanathapuram District on the 107th birth anniversary and guru pooja of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar on 30.10.2014.

State machinery measuring up to monsoon challenges

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. O. Panneerselvam** on 28.10.2014 *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has earned the reputation globally as one who is an expert in handling "rescue", "relief" and "rehabilitation" whenever people are affected on account of natural calamities. The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) Government that is ruling Tamil Nadu is treading the path shown by Amma.

Even before the onset of the North-East Monsoon, instructions were issued to take safety and precautionary measures for protecting people from floods and District Collectors have acted upon them. As a result of the quick action taken by the Tamil Nadu Government that is following the path of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, 10 persons belonging to 2 families were rescued with the help of a helicopter from the floods of a jungle stream at Kalipatti in Dindigul District on 21.10.2014.

Following this, a review meeting was held on 24.10.2014 on the North-East Monsoon and 20 officers in the rank of Government Secretaries were directed to visit the 20 rain affected Districts for monitoring the steps taken to deal with the situation there. The officers have vouchsafed the provision of accommodation, food and clothes to the affected people as also the distribution of rescue and relief assistance.

By way of intensifying the relief operations further, a review meeting was held at the Secretariat on 27.10.2014.

Hon'ble Ministers for Electricity, Housing, Highways, Agriculture, Municipal Administration, Revenue and Health, Adviser to Tamil Nadu Government, Commissioner of Revenue Administration and other top officials participated.

The meeting discussed in detail the loss of human lives, cattle and the damage caused to huts and crops due to the heavy rains caused by the monsoon.

The meeting was told the State had so far received 204.5 mm of rain on account of the North-East Monsoon, 35 per cent more than 151 mm rains normally received. Of the 32 districts, 28 had received excess rains.

So far, 30 persons have died of electric shock, lightning and thunder, wall collapse and in floods. The bereaved families were each given Rs. 1.50 lakh from the Disaster Relief Fund. A decision was taken at the meeting to provide Rs. 1 lakh more to these families from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Totally, each bereaved family would get Rs. 2.50 lakh.

The meeting was informed that 108 heads of cattle had perished in the rains and relief at the rate of Rs. 20,000/- for cattle loss, Rs.2,000/- for loss of goats and Rs.100/- for loss of poultry was given to owners.

So far, the rains had damaged 250 huts completely and 623 partially. Relief assistance at the rate of Rs.5,000/- for the fully damaged huts and Rs. 2,500/- for the partially damaged huts was given as per instructions already issued. Besides, families which had lost their houses were issued rice, dhothi, saree and kerosene.

As crop damage could be assessed only after the flood waters drained, officials were instructed to send their reports after assessing the damage.

As for roads, it was informed at the meeting that road surface had caved in at 3,070 places in 797 roads within Chennai Municipal Corporation limits and they were repaired in 2,505 places. Repair works are in progress in the rest of the places. In the Districts, 4,765 roads had been damaged in the heavy rains and steps were taken to restore them.

A decision was taken at the meeting to allot Rs. 60 crore for repairing roads as well as tanks and ponds.

As the North-East Monsoon is likely to last till the end of this year, Hon'ble Ministers and high officials of the Government have been asked to take necessary action, in consultation with District Collectors, in respect of undertaking safety, rescue and relief operations.

I wish to inform the Government machinery is ready to meet any contingency.

'More contact centres needed in State for UDAAN Scheme'

D.O. Letter dated 29.10.2014 addressed by Thiru. O. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"I understand that the Central Board of Secondary Education has announced a new scheme called UDAAN which is to mentor girl students to compete for admission to Premier Engineering Colleges including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs). Under the scheme, 1,000 girl students studying in class XI and XII under all Boards of education are to be selected on merit, for receiving special online and direct coaching for entering into IITs and NITs.

The application form has a leading question which requires the applicants to opt for cities for contact class centres out of those listed in the brochure and Tamil Nadu has only two cities in the list. Tamil Nadu, as a leading State in education would have a number of students who would be eligible under the scheme. Hence it is surprising to note that out of the 151 contact class centres, only two centres have been provided for Tamil Nadu. On the other hand, a much larger number of centres have been provided in many other States. Two centres in a large State with substantial girl student population in the science stream is very inadequate and this by itself would act as a dampener for participation by girl students. Apprehension about having to travel long distances to go to contact classes, will undoubtedly reduce response from eligible candidates. Even more surprising is the fact that Chennai, which is the largest city in Tamil Nadu and a leading metropolis, does not have a contact centre unlike other large Metropolitan cities. This will also deprive a large number of eligible girl students of an opportunity to participate. Hence eligible students may be allowed to opt for contact class centres at their respective District headquarters.

I request you to kindly have these design flaws in the UDAAN scheme examined and increase the number of contact centres in Tamil Nadu including one in Chennai. May I also request you to kindly extend the last date for applications for the programme to at least 30th November, 2014, to enable eligible girl students from Tamil Nadu to apply for admission under the scheme?"

Milk price hike to benefit producers

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru.O.Panneerselvam on 25.10.2014 *(English Translation)*

Milk is considered an important item of human consumption. It is an income multiplying agent for rural farmers. It generates employment. The AIADMK Government, treading the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is a Government that functions on the fundamentals of making available a remunerative price for milk producers, developing the institution of Aavin that is providing an efficient service to the people and supplying quality milk to consumers regularly at a fair price.

Aavin touched a nadir in the earlier minority DMK regime. It faced the unfortunate situation of not being able to pay even after 45 days for its milk procurement. Not only that, it was pushed to the sorry state of cutting down its quantum of procurement also. To retrieve the tottering Aavin from the brink, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was providing an assistance of Rs. 17 crore every month for nearly six months and stabilized the institution. Till now, the Tamil Nadu Government has given an assistance of Rs. 192.14 crore to Aavin.

Last year, when milk producers placed a demand to Aavin Management to increase the procurement price, the Tamil Nadu Government examined it and raised the procurement price by Rs.3/- per litre, effective from 01.01.2014. But no change was effected in the sale price of milk.

Milk producers made a request to further increase the procurement price, citing the

increase in the price of milch cattle, green and dry fodder and other inputs.

The Tamil Nadu Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has decided to increase the procurement price of cow's milk by Rs.5/- a litre from Rs.23/- to Rs.28/- viz., and buffalo's milk by Rs.4/- a litre viz., from Rs.31/- to Rs.35/-. The factors that have gone into this decision are the important role milk sale plays in the development of rural economy, the fairness of the demand of milk producers, the higher procurement price offered by private dairies, the benefit accruing to more than 22.5 lakh milk producers in the co-operative fold and to ensure the interests of milk co-operative societies. This increase in the procurement price will come into effect from 01.11.2014.

As for sale price of milk, that of Aavin's is much less when compared to private dairies and other States' co-operative federations. In the dairying industry, generally 75 to 80 per cent of the sale price of milk goes to milk producers. Taking this into account and also the financial position of the co-operative institutions, payments to be made to milk producers of their dues without delay and continued supply of quality milk to consumers, the Government is pushed to the necessity of hiking the sale price of Aavin milk which has not been raised for the last three years. The Government is compelled to raise the sale price of toned milk by Rs.10/- a litre from Rs.24/- to Rs.34/- to make good the increase in the procurement price and to meet pasteurization expenses. Even after effecting this increase, Aavin's sale price of milk is less than those of private dairies and the co-operative federation of other States.

*Family members of five fishermen who had been falsely implicated and sentenced to death in Sri Lanka, and representatives of Fishermen Associations met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. O. Panneerselvam** at the Secretariat on 03.11.2014 and thanked Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and the State Government for their continued efforts to save the convicted fishermen. Fishermen representatives requested the Government authorities not to slacken their efforts and retrieve the convicted persons.*

Swift Government action helps rescue two families from surging floods

Palani and Kodaikanal region in Dindigul District received the highest rainfall of 202 mm in the State on 20.10.2014. Following this, Kaalipatti in Manjanaickenpatti village in Oddanchatram Taluk, Palani Revenue Division was flooded on 21.10.2014 and 10 persons belonging to two families were caught in the surging flood waters between Nallathangal Odai and Karasavaikkal. The Dindigul District Collector and revenue officials rushed to the spot to take up rescue operations on a war-footing. As the local fire service department personnel could not immediately take up the rescue operations on account of heavy rains, the State Government was informed of the situation.

On receipt of the information, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. O. Panneerselvam ordered officials to expedite the rescue operations by requisitioning the assistance of IAF helicopter and the National Disaster Rescue Team. Accordingly, the Headquarters officials of the IAF at Delhi and those in the Sulur base Coimbatore were contacted and helicopter assistance was requested. The assistance of the National Disaster Rescue Team at Arakkonam was also requested. As the team of 40 from the Rescue Team at Arakkonam was rushing to Dindigul by road, the helicopter that left Sulur, by 1.30 PM reached the spot by 2.20 PM and started the rescue work.

Ten persons, including a 14-year old girl Varshini and 16-year old boy Surya, were safely rescued around 3.45 PM. The District administration despatched the rescued persons to the Government Hospital at Palani by ambulance 108.

Relief works on the dot
Stop levelling false charges for political gain, DMK chief told

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.O.Panneerselvam** on 29.10.2014 *(English Translation)*

The DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi has issued a statement under the title "Hurry up at least to retain your post". The statement has all the colours as one written in haste to capture the post even by cheating the people.

"Haste makes Waste" is an adage. Thiru. Karunanidhi's statement fits this adage on all fours. Without understanding the precautionary measures taken even before the on-set of the North East Monsoon by the Tamil Nadu Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, and the rescue and relief measures after the breaking in of the monsoon, Thiru. Karunanidhi has hurriedly issued a fabricated statement full of lies, imagination and fantasies with the petty motive of gaining political mileage. I wish to state at the outset that Thiru. Karunanidhi's statement is totally an imaginary story and there is not an iota of truth in it.

Thiru. Karunanidhi has stated that neither Ministers nor officials have visited the flood-hit areas. High-ranking officers were deputed to the 20 rain affected Districts and they visited the flood-hit areas and keenly oversaw the rescue, safety and relief measures that were carried out there. On account of the speedy action of the Tamil Nadu Government that treads the path of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, 10 persons caught in the jungle stream floods at Kaalipatti in Dindigul District were rescued with the help of a helicopter. The National Disaster Rescue Team at Arakkonam was also involved in the operation. Hon'ble Minister for Electricity Thiru. Natham R.Viswanathan, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Tmt. P.Valarmathi, Hon'ble Minister for Food Thiru. R.Kamaraj, Hon'ble Minister for Commercial Tax and Registration Thiru.M.C.Sampath, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development Thiru.S.P.Velumani, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry Thiru.T.K.M.Chinnayya, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries Thiru. K. A. Jayapal,

Hon'ble Minister for Dairy Development Thiru.B.V.Ramana, Hon'ble Minister for Forest Thiru.M.S.M.Anandan, Hon'ble Minister for Environment Thiru. Thoppu N.T.Venkatachalam, Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Thiru.S.Abdul Rahim, and the Worshipful Mayor of Chennai Thiru.Saidai Duraisamy visited the flood-hit areas in Chennai and in other Districts, consoled the affected people and extended necessary help to them. Besides, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development Thiru. R.Vaithilingam, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Thiru. R.B.Udhaya Kumar and Hon'ble Minister for Health Dr. C. Vijayabaskar convened meetings of officers of their respective Departments and ensured that adequate safety measures were taken. Also Members of Parliament and Legislature and representatives of local bodies inspected the flooded areas, consoled the people and were supportive of proper steps being taken up. The media has carried all these things as news. Even if a statement is issued concealing all these things like hiding a pumpkin in cooked rice, Thiru. Karunanidhi should realize that the people of Tamil Nadu are not so naive as to be carried away by it. Though the people of Tamil Nadu taught a fitting lesson in the last Lok Sabha elections to such false campaigns of the DMK, Thiru.Karunanidhi has not learnt any lesson from it.

Thiru.Karunanidhi has next noted in his statement that paddy crops in six lakh acres in the Delta Districts have got submerged. This is contrary to facts. The truth, as per the information received, is that crops in about 53,000 acres alone have got submerged. I wish to state that crop damage will be assessed after the flood water drains from the fields and due relief assistance will be extended.

Thiru.Karunanidhi has further stated that he had offered funds from his MLA Constituency Development Fund when the North Bank parapet wall of Thiruvarur Kamalaalayam Tank collapsed in the last rains. Thiru.M.K.Stalin too had echoed this statement. This reminds one, of the lines of the song " Poyyile Pirandhu

Poyyile Valarndha Pulavar Perumaanae" (O! the great poet! born and brought up in lies). The Government allotted Rs. 1.06 crore for repairing the north bank area of the tank. Works are on. Tenders have been floated for repairing the western side of the tank that has now collapsed. This work also will be undertaken and completed soon.

In his statement Thiru.Karunanidhi has said that on account of the heavy rains, roads in and around Chennai City have been damaged, water is stagnating in roads and health problems have reared their heads. It is natural that roads get damaged during heavy rains. In 797 roads within the Chennai Municipal Corporation limits, ditches have formed at 3,070 places and they have been repaired in 2,505 places. In the rest of the places work is on. The Chennai Corporation Administration has taken steps to immediately pump out water stagnating at roadsides and in subways. The Health Department of Chennai Corporation and the Family Welfare Department of the Government have taken necessary steps to prevent the outbreak of fever on account of the heavy rains.

The rains have damaged roads in Districts other than Chennai to a length of 4,765 kms and they are being repaired. For road repairs and tank restoration, Rs.60 crore has been allotted.

So far, 30 persons have died in the State due to the rains. The needed relief assistance has been extended to the bereaved families. Relief has been provided to owners of huts damaged totally or partially. Likewise, owners who have lost their cattle have also been compensated.

Thiru.Karunanidhi has said in his statement that the Mayor of Chennai was gloating over 'achievements' when the people of city were struggling with innumerable problems, like Nero who played fiddle when Rome burnt. Listing the 3 year achievements of Chennai Corporation and rectifying damages caused by the rains are two different things. Chennai Corporation is implementing these two tasks well. Thiru. Karunanidhi is the Nero who was silent when a newspaper office in Madurai was set on fire and three employees died in it; and stated "eyes got moistened, heart became light" when the two families responsible for the incident got united. It is ridiculous such a Nero, Thiru. Karunanidhi has cited the Nero of Rome.

In the earlier minority DMK rule, Thiru. Karunanidhi, ignoring his duties to the people, revelled in functions that were organized to sing his praises. In 2010 end, when people were suffering due to floods, Thiru.Karunanidhi was participating in the song release function for the film "Ilaignan". Such a 'Nero' may day-dream of becoming a 'Hero' by faulting, according to his fancies, the AIADMK Government that treads the path of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who is a synonym for "Rescue, Relief and Rehabilitation" in the minds of world leaders. The end result however will be 'zero'. Hence, I request Thiru. Karunanidhi to stop levelling false charges for political gains.

India Today's 'Best State' award for Tamil Nadu

In an event organized by the India Today group at New Delhi, Tamil Nadu was conferred the Best State award among 20 big States of India in the category of overall growth in fields like agriculture, development, health and education. Tamil Nadu was also conferred the best state award in agricultural growth.

The award for the best State in overall growth was handed over by Hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Rural Development, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu. The award for best State in agriculture was given by Hon'ble Minister for Law, Communications and Information Technology, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad. The awards were received by Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Minister of Agriculture, Thiru. Agri. S. Krishnamoorthy. Tamil Nadu Government secretary for Agriculture, Thiru. Rajesh Lakhani I.A.S., was present.

Search ordered for missing fishermen

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.O.Panneerselvam has directed officials to launch search operations on a war footing to rescue three fishermen, who had set sail on 03.11.2014 from Arcot Thurai in Nagapattinam District but did not return the next day as they were expected to.

The Fisheries Department, Tamil Nadu Police Coastal Security Group and Indian Coast Guard have launched an air and seaward search.

The fishermen are Raman, Thyagarajan and Karthik, belonging to Arcot Thurai village. They went to sea on their fishing boat with the registration number IND-TN-06-MO-1817.

DMK chief's statement on granite scam just 'a show'

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. O. Panneerselvam on 02.11.2014 *(English Translation)*

Thiru. Karunanidhi's statement titled "Delay in Sagayam I.A.S., inquiry" urging "issue of orders to immediately activate the Sagayam I.A.S., inquiry team" and advising "shedding of malice and humane conduct in future" reminds one of the proverb "Thaan Thirudi, Pirarai Nambaan" (A thief will not believe others). This statement is similar to the act of a pickpocket who disappears into a crowd shouting, "thief, thief".

"In whose regime, did the granite scandal occur? Who are those involved in this irregularity? Who are the beneficiaries? What where the steps taken in the earlier minority DMK's period of rule?'' Hiding all this information, Thiru. Karunanidhi issues a statement feigning innocence, and vindicates the proverb "Oyyaara Kondaiyam Thaazhampoovam Ulle Erukkumam Eerum Penum" ('the hairdo is stylish and scented; but what it covers is only insects and lice').

In this context, I wish to state how Thiru. Karunanidhi covered up the granite irregularities in the earlier minority DMK rule, how Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma exposed the scandal and what sort of actions were taken against the culprits.

When a morning newspaper started publishing at the end of June 2010, news under various headings including one on "mining scandal over Rs. 7,000 crore in just 3 Villages near Madurai, surpassing that of Karnataka State", did Thiru. Karunanidhi come forward to investigate the irregularity and take action? Certainly not. On the other hand Thiru. Karunanidhi filed cases against the Editor of the newspaper, his son and his friend under non-bailable sections of law and imprisoned

them. Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, not only issued a statement criticising Thiru. Karunanidhi's unlawful act but urged scrapping of the false cases filed against the journalists. They were released after protests intensified. Yet the earlier minority DMK Government, without exposing the granite irregularities, was taking steps to cover it up.

On the same day of the publication of the news in the Tamil daily, the Industries Department sent a note to the Chief Minister for circulation. The note mentions that the Commissioner of the Department of Geology and Mining "conveys that a final report will be sent to Government after joint inspection by a team of officers from the Departments of Geology and Mining, Revenue, Land and Land Survey and PWD". The Minister concerned has signed the note on 06.08.2010. Without bringing it to the notice of the Chief Minister, the note was returned to the department by the Chief Minister's office. After this, the earlier minority DMK Government did not launch any investigation till May 2011.

About this newspaper report, the then District Collector of Madurai sent a statement to Government on 30.07.2010 in just 2 days. In that statement it was stated: "The fictitious report that several crore worth granite stones had disappeared published in the newspaper dated 28.07.2010 is entirely wrong; in the context of Government earning several crore of rupees through granite quarries and creation of employment opportunities to several thousands of workers, the news published in the above mentioned newspaper can be ignored as it tends to create confusion among workers". The intelligent people of Tamil Nadu can easily discern whether this statement was prepared on the basis of enquiry that was really conducted or to save the grandson of Thiru. Karunanidhi?

After assuming office as Chief Minister in May 2011, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma asked for a detailed report on the granite irregularities. In accordance with this order, the then District Collector of Madurai was requested directly, through the Commissioner of the Department of Geology and Mining and through Government letters dated 03.08.2011, 04.08.2011, 15.09.2011, 22.09.2011, 13.01.2012, 27.01.2012, 08.02.2012, 19.04.2012 and 11.05.2012 to inquire into the granite irregularities in Madurai District and send a report to Government. On 19.05.2012, the Madurai District Collector submitted a report. In that report, he had stated that on a trial basis, three quarries viz., M/S. P.R.P Exports, Olympus Granites and Sindhu Granites viz., were inspected; the revenue loss in the quarries in the whole of Madurai District was likely to be of the order of Rs. 16,000 crore based on the revenue loss in the 3 quarries inspected and on the basis of the market price of the granite stones illegally mined.

The shareholders in the Olympus Granites company, one of the enterprises that indulged in the irregularities, are Thiru. Durai Dhayanidhi, grandson of Thiru. Karunanidhi, Thiru. V.S. Choodamani and his son Thiru. S. Nagarajan, Thiru. Sagayam I.A.S., who inspected this company belonging to Thiru. Karunanidhi has said in his report: "On 01.05.2012, I audited the Olympus company's granite quarry in Keezhavalavur and the Keezhaiyur Kanmaai with Revenue Divisional Officer, Madurai Deputy Collector (Training),

Tahsildar, Melur and the Assistant Geologist of the Department of Minerals. I confirmed the illegal mining of granite by Olympus company".

In the enquiry conducted in the earlier minority DMK rule, a report was submitted stating that no irregularity had taken place. Only the investigation launched in the rule of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, revealed the irregularities. From this, it can be easily inferred which regime was hand in glove with the occurrence of the granite irregularities.

Following this, the Madurai District Collector was commissioned to inspect all the 175 granite quarries in Madurai District and submit a report. Special teams numbering 18 were formed and a full-fledged investigation was undertaken. In this inspection, irregularities were detected in 84 granite quarries leased out to private companies. Of these 84 private quarries the licence for the quarry belonging to Olympus company was already cancelled permanently by this Government. A case in this respect is still pending in the High Court. The licences of 77 quarries have been suspended. The remaining six quarries are awaiting court orders. Fifty-seven quarry owners have moved the High Court against the suspension of their licences and obtained stay orders. All these cases have been clubbed into a group and are pending in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court.

The Madurai District Collector sent notices to 83 granite companies in January, 2013, asking them to deposit Rs. 13,748 crore by way of collecting the market value of the granite illegally mined by them. Quarry owners filed 62 petitions against this in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court. The High Court dismissed 57 of these cases on 02.09.2014. The remaining 5 cases are pending.

Ninety FIRs have been filed against those who have indulged in irregularities. Against PRP company alone 50 FIRs have been filed. The Madurai Bench High Court has stayed 24 FIRs. The Tamil Nadu Government has filed a petition for lifting the stay.

The Madras High Court has reserved judgement after conclusion of arguments on 08.08.2014 on six writ petitions filed against the notifications issued by the Madurai District Collector and published in newspapers on 21.04.2013 and 27.02.2014 in respect of acquisition of 24,751 granite stones stored without licence in Government poramboke lands in 121 land survey numbers. As a result, there is a lull in the efforts to acquire and auction these granite slabs.

The PRP Exports and PRP Granites filed cases in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court against the orders of restraint from functioning passed against their companies and obtained a favourable decree. In the appeal against this order, Tamil Nadu Government won. The Supreme Court also upheld Tamil Nadu Government's stand when the matter went in appeal there. It was Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who took all steps to smash the granite irregularity legally.

From these details, it is clear that it was the AIADMK Government headed by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma which initiated all the steps that included cancellation of licences, acquisition and auctioning of 24,751 granite slabs illegally stored, recovering the market value for the illegally mined granite slabs and filing criminal cases against the

culprits. That is why the High Court also has not expressed any opinion about the Government's action. The Madras High Court has appointed Thiru. Sagayam I.A.S., to examine and report whether the Madurai District Collector's inquiry report was correct. The Madras High Court has not passed any orders or expressed any opinion in respect of the steps taken by the State Government against granite irregularities.

Thiru. Karunanidhi was silent when his grandson became a fugitive of law for several months. When Tamil Nadu Government took steps to arrest his grandson, he criticised it as an act of vendetta. Such a Thiru. Karunanidhi, I wish to state, has no locus standi to advise the Government that is functioning on the lines of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

In the judgment of 28.10.2014, cited by Thiru. Karunanidhi, it has been noted: "It is not as if we were unaware of the contents of the counter affidavit, but the fact remains that the scam remained undetected till the report was submitted by Thiru. U. Sagayam I.A.S. If the Government had acted in an efficient manner, such a situation ought not to have come to pass. This is not some minor issue to remain undetected.... It is only when these irregularities were brought to notice by an officer with the State Government that action was sought to be taken..... It (Executive) failed to perform qua the irregularities that arose right under its nose over a long period of time...." At the consistent request of the Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government to send the report, the then District Collector of Madurai Thiru. U. Sagayam submitted the report to Government on 19.05.2012. This report alone has noted that the loss in Madurai District was of the order of Rs. 16,000 crore. Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was wholly responsible for the submission of this report. The Madras High Court's judgement has made it very clear that in the earlier minority DMK's rule attempts were made to conceal the irregularity.

There is a proverb "Madiyil Ganamirundhal Than Vazhiyil Bayam" (a heavy purse infuses fear in a person). As for this Government that follows the path shown by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma there is no concealed wealth and so no fear about safeguarding it. There is no need to fear about this granite irregularity. I wish to inform that at a time when all inquiries to expose the granite irregularities have been completed and those involved in these irregularities have been arraigned before Law, a fresh enquiry by a new person, the Tamil Nadu Government thought, would result in delay in the action already initiated and it went on appeal against the appointment of Thiru. Sagayam only on that account and the Government had no other cause to fear about anything else. It was Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government which brought to light the granite scam that was concealed by the earlier minority DMK Government.

Thiru. Karunanidhi thinks that by advising the Government that is treading the path of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, he can reap political gains. There is a proverb which says that a crow cannot became a swan even if it takes a bath in the Ganges. Likewise, however much he puts up a show, Thiru.Karunanidhi cannot become a Mahatma. I wish to state that Thiru. Karunanidhi will stand "exposed" shortly.

Chief Minister nails DMK chief's double talk on granite scam

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. O. Panneerselvam on 08.11.2014 *(English Translation)*

In my 02.11.2014 rejoinder to Thiru. Karunanidhi's mischievous statement titled 'Delay in Sagayam I.A.S., Inquiry', I had detailed his minority DMK Government's collusion in the granite loot in Madurai and his trickeries to cover it up. I had also shown how Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma opposed the granite scam while in the opposition, and how her Government exposed the granite irregularity and took follow-up action repeatedly against it.

Worried that my statement had exposed him, Thiru. Karunanidhi has issued another statement with the caption, "Why so much delay even after the High Court and Supreme Court have cleared Sagayam's inquiry?". He seems to harbour the vain hope that he can fool the people. His statement reminds one of the Tamil proverbs that the world won't be plunged in darkness when a cat closes its eyes.

Newspapers that have correctly interpreted my 02.11.2014 statement on granite irregularity and published the news with the caption "It is Jayalalithaa's Government that brought to light the granite scandal", have become the target of Thiru. Karunanidhi's ire. In a perverse reply, he has said only when an irregularity takes place it can come to light. I had clarified that the Madras High Court's judgement of 28.10.2014, cited by Thiru. Karunanidhi had castigated only the earlier minority DMK Government that had failed to act on the granite irregularity and not Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government. The High Court has stated: "It is not as if we were unaware of the contents of the counter affidavit, but the fact remains that the scam remained undetected till report was submitted by Mr. U. Sagayam I.A.S. If the Government acted in an efficient manner, such a situation ought not to have to pass. This is not some minor issue to remain undetected…. It is only when these irregularities were brought to notice by an officer with the State Government, that action was sought to be taken…. It (Executive) failed to perform qua the irregularities that arose right under its nose over a long period of time….". If this is understood correctly, it will be clear that the Madras High Court has found fault with the earlier minority DMK Government and not with Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government.

Thiru. Karunanidhi has once again asked the same question - whether the AIADMK Government should not have issued the order which it has done now even at the time the High Court judges asked for the institution of Sagayam Inquiry Commission? I wish to remind Thiru. Karunanidhi of what I have stated earlier. The Tamil Nadu Government opposed in the courts the appointment of Sagayam only on the ground that an inquiry by a new person, when all the investigation for bringing to light the granite scam have been completed and those involved in the irregularity have been arraigned before law, will delay the action already taken. I have explained this clearly in my statement. Has not Thiru. Karunanidhi read that statement? Or is he not able to understand it? Or is he feigning that he has not understood? Only Thiru. Karunanidhi should explain. Whatever be it, at least now he should understand it.

On the one hand Thiru. Karunanidhi asks the question, "Has no action been taken after the media broke the news about granite scam?'' In just 2 days after the publication of the news, he says a report had been obtained from the Madurai District Collector. Then he says that a slur is being cast on the District Collector's report and then asks whether any court has ordered that an inquiry should have been instituted during DMK's rule? He has also stated that only one newspaper has carried the news about granite irregularity. At the outset, I wish to state that all these are contrary to facts.

A morning daily had carried an exhaustive report about granite scam in Madurai District on 28.04.2009. Thiru. S. Murugesan and 52 others presented a complaint to the earlier minority DMK Government on 03.08.2009. An English daily published a detailed report in its issue dated 27.06.2009. Thiru. P.V. Dharmalingam, Keezhavalavu Panchayat President, Madurai District sent a petition about this scam to Government officials including the Chief Secretary to Government on 24.05.2010. On the same day, the leader of a political party also sent a petition regarding this to the Chief Minister. On 02.06.2010, Thiru. Ramesh Kumar had sent a petition to Government about this. The fact is that the earlier minority DMK Government did not act on any of these petitions or on the news carried by newspapers.

In its order passed by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on 04.02.2011 on the miscellaneous petition filed by Thiru. Murugesan in 2009, the court has stated: "No counter affidavit has been filed on behalf of the first respondent (Commissioner, Geology and Mining) till date…. coupled with the fact that the 5th respondent had also launched defamation suit against the petitioner…. claiming damages only on the basis of the impugned order passed by the District Collector shows that there is an attempt to silence the petitioner from pursuing his remedy…. It was unnecessary for him (District Collector, Madurai) to have come up with the contention that the petitioner's attempt was to bring complaints against the 5th respondent in order to forestall the suit pending before the District Court. It was purely a private civil dispute for which the 2nd respondent was in no way concerned…. In any event, the attitude of the District Collector in referring to the private civil dispute in his official counter affidavit does not inspire confidence."

"In the present case, the petitioner is an individual who, on being charged with the desire to bring large scale revenue evasion to notice had made the complaint to the appropriate authorities. The District Collector had treated the said complaint as if it was a private dispute between the petitioner and the 5th respondent…. There was also no independent attempt made to find out with the available infrastructure to arrive at the actual quarrying done and the amount of money paid towards seigniorage fee… The concern expressed by the Commercial Tax Department that a largescale evasion of Commercial Tax was also not gone into…. When the court is of the opinion that the 2nd respondent (Collector, Madurai), had not discharged his duty in unravelling the truth by gathering materials from all relevant departments by acting on his own and not treating the complaint made by the petitioner as part of an adversarial procedure, the only course open to this court is not to accept the alleged conclusions reached by the 2nd respondent."

That is, the Madras High Court has exposed what sort of an inquiry the Madurai District Collector had conducted regarding the granite scam in the earlier minority DMK rule.

As the Government headed by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was incessantly asking the District Collector to forward the report, the then Madurai District Collector Thiru. Sagayam submitted the report dated 19.05.2012 to the Government.

Thiru. Karunanidhi has stated that the report was obtained from the District Collector in just two days and action was initiated. Is it possible to inspect 175 granite quarries in Madurai District in just 2 days? The High Court's present order has very clearly revealed that such an investigation and the conclusion thereon that no irregularity had taken place is like concealing a pumpkin in a morsel of food!

Though I have explained in my report the action taken as per law in connection with the granite scam, Thiru. Karunanidhi has raised questions on it. Hence, I wish to state briefly again the action as per law in this regard:-

1. All the 175 granite quarries in Madurai District have been inspected and irregularities have been detected in 84 of them.

2. Licences of 77 quarries have been suspended; 6 quarries are under court's orders; the licence of one quarry has already been cancelled.

3. Quarry owners have obtained stay against the suspension orders by moving the High Court through 57 petitions. All these cases have been clubbed together and are pending in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court.

4. The Madurai District Collector issued notices to 83 private granite companies in January 2013 to recover Rs. 13,748 crore, the market value of the granite slabs they have illegally mined. The quarry owners have obtained stay orders. The High Court dismissed 57 of these cases on 02.09.2014. 5 cases are still pending.

5. Six writ petitions have been filed against the notifications issued by the District Collector for acquisition of 24,751 granite slabs stored in Government poramboke land. Hearing on them concluded on 08.08.2014 and the court allowed the petitions on 05.11.2014. The Madurai District Collector will appeal against this order.

6. Ninety FIRs have been filed against those involved in the granite scam. The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has issued stay on 24 FIRs. The Tamil Nadu Government has filed a petition to lift these stay orders.

Hence, Thiru. Karunanidhi should understand at least now that Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has taken every legal action open to it.

In my earlier statement, I had pointed out that the then Madurai District Collector Thiru. Sagayam had confirmed the illegal mining of granite by Olympus company in which Thiru. Karunanidhi's grandson was a shareholder and thus exposed the involvement of Thiru. Karunanidhi's family in the granite loot. What is Karunanidhi's reply to it?

I wish to state that no sort of action was taken in the earlier minority DMK rule against the granite looters and it was only Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government that took action and that Karunanidhi false statement cannot hide these facts.

Instructions for speedy relief in rain-hit areas of Chennai

Under Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's guidance, a review meeting on the activities of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board was held on 20.10.2014. Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development Thiru. R. Vaithilingam presided.

The Hon'ble Minister instructed officials to take precautionary measures to prevent stagnation of water in low-lying areas and in the Slum Clearance Board's tenements in the rainy season, with the help of Chennai Corporation in Chennai and with the help of the District Administration in other areas and take steps on a war footing to bail out water in the event of stagnation so that the day-to-day life of the occupants is not affected in any way.

Round-the-clock field inspection of the affected areas should be conducted on a rotation basis by organizing special camps and effective steps taken after consultation with higher officials to restore normalcy.

The Hon'ble Minister advised speedy execution of the Board's projects as also repair and maintenance works.

Steps demanded to save death row fishermen

D.O. Letter dated 30.10.2014 addressed by Thiru O. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"The people of Tamil Nadu are shocked and deeply grieved to learn of the judgement of the Colombo High Court delivered today (30.10.2014), convicting and sentencing 5 Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu to death, on charges of transferring narcotics. On behalf the people of Tamil Nadu, I strongly condemn the unjust conviction meted out to the 5 Indian fishermen from Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu - Emerson, Agastas, Wilson, Prasath and Langlet. The Government of Tamil Nadu has consistently insisted that these 5 fishermen were innocent and that the case has been foisted on them and also that the evidence against the fishermen in the court is a fabrication. These 5 fishermen set out to fish from Rameswaram on 28.11.2011, when they were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on the allegation of possession of narcotics.

My leader, Puratchi Thalavi Amma has written numerous times to both you and your predecessor in the last three years regarding this case. Based on the directions of my Leader, the case has also been taken up in several Inter-Ministerial and Joint Working Group meetings. This issue has also figured prominently in the fishermen level talks.

The Government of Tamil Nadu had also sanctioned special assistance to pay for the legal fees of defending these 5 fishermen. Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu has sanctioned special livelihood assistance to the families of the 5 fishermen.

Based on Government of Tamil Nadu's insistence, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka had taken up this issue with the Sri Lankan authorities and consistently argued that these are bonafide fishermen with no record of involvement in drug related activities. There was considerable hope that the fishermen would be released based on the records submitted by the Indian side. Based on the close monitoring of this case by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Indian side had been given hope that in each successive hearing there was a strong prospect of discharge of the fishermen from the case and their release.

In these circumstances, the conviction of these fishermen and the award of death penalty is particularly shocking and unexpected. The manner in which the entire trial was conducted and the orders delayed, gives rise to serious

doubts as to whether the fishermen received a fair trial. This is particularly so since, in earlier cases of alleged drug trafficking, where the court found the accused guilty the only penalty levied was a fine. The present case of 5 fishermen was under hearing in Jaffna when the Sri Lankan police filed the charge sheet in the Colombo Court and transferred the case abruptly. Thereafter, the trial was held in the Fourth Bench of the Colombo High Court.

Given all these circumstances, the death sentence against the 5 fishermen has greatly incensed not only the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu but all sections of society. It is quite apparent that these bonafide and innocent fishermen have not received a fair trial and have become the victims of a hidden agenda.

It is the paramount duty of the Government of India to protect the life and liberty of 5 of its innocent citizens who are being deprived of their rights in an apparently unjust and unfair manner. I request you to immediately take up the matter with the highest authorities in Sri Lanka to ensure that the lives of the 5 innocent Indian fishermen are saved and they are released to return home at the earliest. I also request you to direct the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka to set in motion the legal procedure for appeal within the statutory period in the appropriate appellate forum. Since the Government of Tamil Nadu will continue to meet the entire legal costs of this case, the Indian High Commission may be instructed not to spare any effort including, securing the best legal counsel and support for the effective defence of the 5 fishermen. Failure to take immediate decisive action in this case and secure justice for the 5 fishermen will greatly inflame the already bruised emotions amongst the people of Tamil Nadu."

Representatives of NLC Trade Unions called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ***Thiru.O.Panneerselvam*** *at the Secretariat on 15.10.2014 and presented a memorandum regarding the demands of contract workers. Hon'ble Ministers and Trade union representatives were present.*

‘SAVE TAMIL NADU FISHERMEN SUFFERING IN SAUDI ARABIA’

D.O. Letter dated 31.10.2014 addressed by Thiru. O. Panneerselvam, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India

“I write to bring to your attention the pathetic plight of 22 fishermen who had gone to Saudi Arabia to work for a fishing company through an agent last year. The company is based in Jubail, Saudi Arabia. Of these fishermen, 12 are from Nagapattinam District, one from Cuddalore District and 3 from Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu. The remaining 6 are from Karaikkal District of Puducherry.

It appears that these fishermen are being forced to endure harsh working conditions and they are being physically abused and tortured. Despite their plea to be repatriated to India, as they are unable to bear the hardship, their employer is refusing to pay heed. These fishermen have not even been paid their wages as per the contractual terms. The family members of these poor fishermen have requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to intervene and ensure their safe return to India.

I request you to kindly intervene in the matter and direct the Embassy of India in Saudi Arabia to take immediate steps to contact the 22 fishermen and ascertain their well being. The Embassy of India may also be directed to contact the authorities in Saudi Arabia to ensure that the dues to these poor fishermen are settled immediately by the company in which they were employed.

The Embassy of India may also be directed to provide all assistance to enable these fishermen to return home safely.”

Do You Know?

People affected by the North-East Monsoon rains can lodge their complaints through the toll free phone no: 1070 placed at the State Emergency Control Centre and through phone No: 1077 at the District level. Arrangements have been made to swing into immediate action on receipt of complaints.

Tamil Nadu objects to Kerala plan for Pambar Dam

D.O. Letter dated 08.11.2014 addressed by **Thiru. O. Panneerselvam,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi,** Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"I would like to draw your kind attention to disconcerting reports appearing in the media about the Government of Kerala's Plan to construct a Dam with a storage capacity of about 2 TMC ft. of water across the river Pambar at Pattisserry in Kerala at an estimated cost of Rs.26 crore.

I would also like to point out that the river Pambar, is a tributary of the river Amaravathy, which in turn is a tributary of the river Cauvery. It has also been reported that the Chief Minister of Kerala had laid the foundation stone for this project recently and preliminary works have been taken up. This has caused anxiety, deep anguish and uncertainty amongst the farmers of Tamil Nadu. It is apprehended that the irrigation and drinking water supply in the entire area dependent on the Amaravathy river, will be totally affected, if the Government of Kerala is allowed to build the Dam and obstruct the flow of water to Amaravathy Reservoir.

The proposed plan of the Government of Kerala in taking up new projects in the Pambar sub-basin is in violation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 05.02.2007. Any new project should have the approval of the Cauvery Management Board and the specific consent of the downstream State of Tamil Nadu.

My Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has repeatedly been urging the Government of India to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 05.02.2007. This request of my Leader has not been favourably considered till now. In the absence of an appropriate mechanism viz., the Cauvery Management Board, it will not be possible to monitor the execution of new projects by the party States.

A visit by the Engineers of Public Works Department to the site on 07.11.2014 has indicated that though work has not yet started, it was ascertained that Government of Kerala may start the work very soon in view of the reports regarding laying of the foundation stone.

May I, therefore, request you to advise the Government of Kerala not to proceed with the proposed construction of the Dam across the river Pambar at Pattisserry or any other scheme on the river Pambar? I also request you to advise the Government of Kerala to furnish full details of the schemes proposed by the Government of Kerala in the Pambar sub-basin and further request Kerala not to proceed with any of the projects, in any manner, till the Cauvery Management Board is constituted and the consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu obtained.

I request your immediate intervention in this matter to protect the interests of Tamil Nadu and also to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal."

DMK Treasurer's call for convening Assembly session rubbished

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. O. Panneerselvam on 10.11.2014 (*English Translation*)

DMK Treasurer Thiru.M.K.Stalin has issued a statement lamenting the "non-convening of the winter session of the Legislature which is usually convened in the month of October " and has urged the calling of the Assembly to pass a resolution seeking the protection of the lives of five fishermen who are facing the gallows in Sri Lanka and to discuss a few other issues. The cold war between the father and son in the DMK is well known. He has sub-titled his statement as that from "the Leader of the DMK Legislature Party, M.K.Stalin", perhaps to have the title 'Leader' at least in the statement!

The AIADMK Government which is following in the footsteps of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is toiling tirelessly day and night for the welfare of all Tamils. Its speedy actions to protect the interests of Tamils are influenced by the saying: "one mission at a time; that too a good one; the good mission is to be carried out on the same day itself; and that also instantly". That is why this Government has speedily acted to save the lives of the five fishermen from Tamil Nadu who have been sentenced to death in Sri Lanka on false charges.

Right from the day these 5 fishermen were imprisoned, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had taken all necessary actions to protect their families and challenge the false cases against them legally.

These 5 fishermen of Rameswaram were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on 28.11.2011 when they were fishing in the sea in their traditional fishing grounds and were later falsely implicated in narcotics smuggling cases. As the accusations against these innocent fishermen were fabricated ones, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma issued orders on 14.12.2011 to engage a lawyer of Sri Lanka to plead up their cases for getting them released, to initiate all necessary steps

through the federation for release of innocent fishermen at Rameswaram and sanctioned Rs.2 lakh towards the conduct of the case. A further sum of Rs.3 lakh was sanctioned on 08.02.2013 for conducting the case without any slackness. The families of these fishermen continue to get Rs. 7,500/- each every month as Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, by way of protecting them, had issued orders to that effect. In addition to the daily assistance, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma presented Rs. 10 lakh to these five fishermen families on 13.12.2012 at the rate of Rs. 2 lakh each.

Despite the legal and diplomatic initiatives to get these fishermen discharged from the false charges foisted on them, the Colombo High Court convicted them on 30.10.2014 to death. Immediately, I wrote to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India requesting him to take legal and diplomatic action to save these convicted fishermen and bring them back to India. Tamil Nadu Government's high officials also got in touch with the officials of the Foreign Ministry and Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka and ensured that speedy steps were taken to get them released. That is why, the judgement in Sinhalese language has been translated quickly into English and arrangements have been made to file an appeal against this judgement on 10.11.2014. On a request from Tamil Nadu Government, the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka appointed the best lawyers to represent the fishermen. The Tamil Nadu Government has credited Rs. 20 lakh to the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka on 08.11.2014 to defray the entire cost towards filing the appeal.

If Thiru.Stalin feels he can fish in troubled waters, when the State Government, following in the footsteps of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has taken all necessary action speedily to save these five fishermen, I wish to state that his effort will be futile.

Tamil Nadu Legislature's last session ended on 12.08.2014. The first supplementary budget for the current year has also been passed in this session. On account of the Lok Sabha elections, the demand for grants for the various departments were taken up for discussion only after the completion of the elections. Hence, the session continued till 12.08.2014. When the 2009 Lok Sabha elections were held, the legislature session, convened by the earlier minority DMK Government for passing the demands for grants, ended on 21.07.2009. The Legislative Assembly was called into session next only on 06.01.2010. As per the Indian Constitution, the interval between two sessions of the Assembly should be less than six months. So we know when we have to call the next session of the Legislative Assembly; we don't need Thiru.Stalin's advice on this.

The DMK has developed a code of its own on how to participate in debates in Legislative sessions. The last three years' history of DMK was to level false charges, create a ruckus when Hon'ble Ministers rebut them, stage walk-outs or get evicted from the Assembly by behaving in a manner that affects the honour and dignity of the House. Only Thiru.Stalin should explain whether they want to enact similar scenes once again.

Centre asked to restrain Karnataka from going ahead with dam proposals

D.O. letter dated 12.11.2014 addressed by Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"Karnataka has been repeatedly violating the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, seriously jeopardizing the rights of the lower riparian State of Tamil Nadu and affecting the livelihood of lakhs of farmers. The latest in the series of violation is their proposal to go ahead with the construction of two reservoirs at Mekedatu.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that my Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had already written to your predecessor on 02.09.2013 that the reservoirs planned by the Government of Karnataka near Mekedatu are new schemes not contemplated in the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, dated 05.02.2007. Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu had filed an Interlocutory Application in the Supreme Court to restrain the Government of Karnataka, among others, from executing the Mekedatu Hydro Electric Project unilaterally by themselves and it should only be executed comprehensively with Sivasamudhram, Mekedatu, Hogenakkal and Rasimanal Hydro Electric Projects as envisaged by the National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Ltd., or any other appropriate Central Power Generation utility, so as to derive maximum benefits of power potential. My Leader had, therefore, urged your predecessor to advise the Government of Karnataka not to take up any schemes including Hydro Electric Projects in the Cauvery Basin of Karnataka without the prior consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu, apart from advising the Government of India,

Ministry of Environment and Forests, not to accord clearance to any projects of Karnataka in the River Cauvery till a permanent monitoring mechanism viz., the Cauvery Management Board is formed.

Now, the Media has widely reported that Karnataka has invited Global Expression of Interest for a technical feasibility study to construct two reservoirs at Mekedatu to store additional water and also that about 2,500 acres of forest land would be submerged.

The plan of Karnataka to construct two reservoirs at Mekedatu across the River Cauvery would be a clear violation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has been notified on 19.02.2013 and therefore, the Final Order of the Tribunal has the same force as an Order or a decree of the Supreme Court, as per Section 6 (2) of the Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. Further, the Interlocutory Application filed by Tamil Nadu in the Supreme Court to restrain the Government of Karnataka from executing the Shivasamudram and Mekedatu Hydro Electric Projects by that State is still pending. Therefore, the whole issue is now sub judice before the Supreme Court.

Under the circumstances, I seek your immediate personal intervention in the matter and request you to advise the Government of Karnataka to withhold the Expression of Interest called for by the Government of Karnataka for the technical feasibility study and advise the Government of Karnataka not to proceed with any further action regarding the technical feasibility study and not to take any steps to execute any irrigation, hydro power, lift irrigation schemes or any other scheme in the guise of drinking water supply in the Cauvery Basin of Karnataka without the consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu. I also request you to instruct the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, not to give clearance to any project posed by the Government of Karnataka without consulting the Government of Tamil Nadu.

May I also point out that the request of my Leader for the formation of Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee has not been acceded to till now by Government of India?

I look forward to your immediate positive response in this matter”.

The Variety and Unity of India

The birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister falls on November 14.

The diversity of India is tremendous; it is obvious; it lies on the surface and anybody can see it. It concerns itself with physical appearances as well as with certain mental habits and traits. There is little in common, to outward seeming, between the pathan of the North-West and the Tamil in the far South. Their racial stocks are not the same, though there may be a common strands running through them; they differ in face and figure, food and clothing, and, of course, language. In the North-Western Frontier province there is already the breath of Central Asia, and many a custom there, as in Kashmir, reminds one of the countries on the other side of the Himalayas. Pathan popular dances are singularly like Russian Cossack dancing. Yet, with all these differences, there is no mistaking the impress of India on the Pathan, as this is obvious on the Tamil. This is not surprising, for these border lands, and indeed Afghanistan also, were united with India for thousands of years. The old Turkish and other races who inhabited Afghanistan and parts of Central Asia before the advent of Islam were largely Buddhists, and earlier still, during the period of the Epics, Hindus. The frontier area was one of the principal centres of old Indian culture and it abounds still with ruins of monuments and monasteries and, especially, of the great university of Taxila, which was at the height of its fame two thousand years ago, attracting students from all over India as well as different parts of Asia. Changes of religion made a difference, but could not change entirely the mental backgrounds which the people of those areas had developed.

- The Discovery of India

by Jawaharlal Nehru

Kabir Award for social, communal harmony: applications invited

The 'Kabir Puraskar' Award for social and communal harmony is presented every year by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the Republic Day Function. The award is given at three levels to one person in each category and carries a cheque for Rs. 20,000/-, Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 5,000/- and a citation respectively. Persons from Tamil Nadu (barring Armed Police, Police, Fire Services and Government Employees if their acts of social and communal harmony form part of their Government duty) are eligible to receive this award. This award is presented in appreciation of the physical and mental courage of persons who have visibly protected during communal clashes or prolonged violence, persons belonging to a caste, race and class other than their own or protected their properties.

For the selection of eligible persons for Kabir Puraskar Award to be presented on the Republic day in 2015, applications with relevant documents should be forwarded before 15.12.2014 to the Principal Secretary, Public Department, Secretariat, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai – 600 009 through the respective District Collector.

Applications received beyond the due date will be strictly rejected. The applications will be scrutinized by a selection committee set up for this purpose and the selected persons will be honoured by the Hon'ble Chief Minister with the medal on 26.01.2015.

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Tamil Scholar of Italy Veeramamunivar on November 8, 2014 floral tributes were offered to his portrait placed near his statue on Kamarajar Salai by Hon'ble Ministers, The Worshipful Mayor, Secretary, Tamil Development & Information Department, Chairman Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation Ltd. and other high officials participated.

Missionary who made significant contributions to Tamil

November 8 is the birth anniversay of Veeramamunivar

Guiseppe (Joseph) Constantine Beschi (1680-1747), an Italian missionary, popularly known as Veeramamunivar lived and worked in Tamil Nadu from 1710 until his death in 1747.

In addition to his missionary work, Beschi made significant contributions to Tamil letters. He wrote a number of poetical works in Tamil. Thembhavani, an epic in verse-form, narrates the life of St. Joseph in 3,600 stanzas. It is his masterpiece. His most outstanding contribution in the field of Tamil prose narrative is Paramartha Guru Kathai.

Beschi realised the importance of dictionary as a tool to master a language and compiled a Tamil-Tamil dictionary. This dictionary, also known as Saturakarathi, is considered the first attempt in Tamil lexicography. It is also a remarkable piece of work in the tradition of Tamil 'Nighantu' works. For this reason Beschi has been acclaimed as the father of Tamil lexicography.

Sathurakarathi consists of four divisions 'Peyarakarathi', Porulakarathi', Togaiakarathi' and 'Todaiakarathi'. 'Peyarakarathi' contains more than 12,000 words and their meanings. 'Porulakarathi' deals with synonyms and homonyms of Tamil and Sanskrit words. 'Togaiakarathi' enumerates the compound words. 'Todaiakarathi', the last division of Saturakarathi, deals with rhyming words, mostly used in prosody and poetics.

- The Encyclopaedia of Indian Literature (Volume Five) By Mohan Lal)

US diplomat calls on Chief Minister

More co-operation envisaged with American companies

Meeting of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. O. Panneerselvam with Ambassador Kathleen Stephens, Charge'd Affaires, US Embassy, New Delhi

Ambassador Kathleen Stephens, Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the United States of America to India, called on Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. O. Panneerselvam on 21.10.2014 in the Secretariat. The Ambassador was accompanied by Phillip A. Min, Consul General of the United States in Chennai, Ms. Kalpana Murthy, Political and Economic Officer and Mr Adrian Pratt, Ambassador's Special Assistant.

The historic and deep ties between United States and India and specifically Tamil Nadu were mentioned. It was noted that Chennai has one of the busiest US Consulates anywhere in the world and it issues the largest number of employment related visas. Investments made by some of the large American companies including Ford and Caterpillar in Tamil Nadu were cited as some of the most successful US investments into India since the 1990s.

The Chief Minister indicated that Tamil Nadu is proud to be a favoured destination for foreign investors and welcomes more investment from the United States in the coming years. Tamil Nadu is a well administered and progressive State which has

been set on a high growth path under the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023. This document is intended as a road map to achieve the vision to make Tamil Nadu the most favoured investment destination in India, and one of the top three investment destinations in Asia. This Vision Document envisages the substantial strengthening of infrastructure, including human capital, in the State by the year 2023 with an investment of 15 lakh crore rupees (US $ 245 billion). In Phase II of the document 217 specific projects have been identified for implementation and work on some of the projects has already commenced. Many of these projects are intended to be implemented in the Public-Private-Partnership mode and entirely by the private sector with some facilitation by the Government.

Some of the key projects and areas where there could be significant synergy between what the United States and some of its large companies have to offer in terms of experience and expertise and the needs of a State like Tamil Nadu include:

❖ The development of a Finance City in Chennai which can complement what is happening in other regional financial centres and provide necessary back up support.

❖ Development of industrial parks, nodes and clusters including as part of the Madurai-Thoothukudi Industrial Corridor project which the Government of Tamil Nadu intends to develop.

❖ Greater collaboration in provision of urban infrastructure and services including Intelligent Transport Solutions, Waste Water Management, Desalination and Solid Waste Management.

❖ Renewable energy projects including solar energy and wind energy.

❖ Entrepreneurship Development initiatives so that we encourage a generation of youthful entrepreneurs who not only find themselves good jobs, but are in a position to generate investment and jobs in the State's economy.

The Chief Minister specifically drew attention to the 3 years of historic development and constructive work done by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. He highlighted the manner in which law and order was maintained and peace and tranquillity in the State was ensured which allowed for greater industrial investment and socio-economic development of the people to take place. He highlighted the role that availability of skilled labour played and specifically that Tamil Nadu had one of the highest number of technical and professional institutions including Engineering Colleges, Polytechnics, ITIs and Medical Colleges in the country. The work done by Hon'ble Amma in the area of rural poverty alleviation and provision of social security was also highlighted.

It was also mentioned that Tamil Nadu is a resilient State with a strong tradition of capable administration and the Government is strongly committed to sustaining the growth and dynamism of the State. Tamil Nadu is open for business and looked forward to a substantial

participation by American companies in the Global Investors Meet proposed to be held during 2015.

The Ambassador mentioned that the fact that the US Consulate Chennai issues the largest number of employment visas in the world, is a reflection of the skill level of the people in the area. She indicated that the United States shares Tamil Nadu vision on growth and the Embassy's intention is to promote investment and greater people to people contacts. She indicated that US companies would be very keen to participate in the Global Investors Meet and that the Principal Commercial Officers in the US Embassy and the Consulate in Chennai would be very happy to be involved in the planning of the event. She specifically mentioned that the spirit of positivity and optimism that she found amongst the people she had interacted with in Chennai was in no small measure due to the considerable development work done by Hon'ble Amma. She also mentioned the innovativeness of the younger generation of engineers who work seamlessly with colleagues anywhere in the world. She also admired the talent and strength of the women in the State who had built up many small businesses. She specifically mentioned that in future teams of senior officials and investors who normally visit only Delhi and return would be persuaded to also travel to Chennai and see for themselves the opportunities for greater economic relations in Tamil Nadu.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary, Adviser to Government, Principal Secretary, Finance and Principal Secretary, Planning and Development.

Hon'ble Minister for Information and Special Programmes Implementation Thiru. K.T. Rajenthrabhalaji garlanded the statue of Kumari Thanthai Marshal Nesamani and paid respects at his Manimandapam at Nagercoil on 01.11.2014. It was on November 1, 1956 that Kanniyakumari District merged with Tamil Nadu.

Speedy measures to keep traffic flowing

Under Hon'ble Amma'a guidance Hon'ble Minister for Highways and Minor Ports, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami on 20.10.2014 discussed with department officials and chief engineers, the speedy measures to be taken for repairing highways damaged by the North-East Monsoon and for removing road hurdles to ensure smooth traffic flow.

The Hon'ble Minister directed that all officials should be readily available to take immediate action to clear the roads of fallen trees, to rectify other damages and streamline traffic.

In Chennai metro, 108 motors – 66 electrically operated and 42 by diesel have been pressed into service to pump out water in 18 subways. Water stagnating in roads in low-lying areas is removed by 2 HP mobile motors. To ensure smooth traffic in the 360 km long roads in the city and extended areas, 30 teams each with 20 members, have been set up.

At the construction sites of Thirumangalam and Moolakadai flyovers in Chennai metro, all service roads have been spruced up and there is no hurdle for the flow of traffic.

Two landslips occurred in the Kodai-Palani hill track in Kodaikanal and were rectified immediately. There is smooth flow of traffic there now.

About 20 km stretch of roads in Cuddalore District have been damaged in the last two days' rains. They are being repaired. The Minister urged that they will be rectified speedily and that steps be taken to prevent further damage. The landslide at the Bodi Mettu hill track in Theni District was cleared quickly and traffic restored.

The Hon'ble Minister instructed field workers and engineers to be vigilant and pay greater attention to hill areas and smoothen the flow of traffic by taking immediate action.

The breach in the bypass route laid for the construction of a bridge in Tenkasi Division is being plugged. Traffic is maintained now in an alternative route.

The Minister directed the engineers to keep all workers on duty round-the-clock in rotation for relief works. These include bailing out flood and rain water collecting on roads, preventing road erosion, monitoring water levels in flooded canals, taking up precautionary measures whenever ground level bridges are flooded and immediate clearing of hill tracks for traffic in case of land slides and tree falls.

The District Collector of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh has sent a letter praising the Tamil Nadu Government for dispatching Tamil Nadu Highways Department mazdoors and for the excellent work done by them in the cyclone affected areas of Visakhapatnam.

Relief works for rain-hit reviewed

The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Thiru. R. B. Udhaya Kumar reviewed on 03.11.2014 the relief operations undertaken in the monsoon-affected districts and the relief assistance provided.

The review meeting was held at the State Emergency Control room located in the Office of the Commissioner of Revenue Administration.

The Commissioner said that the relief assistance announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister to the bereaved families of 30 persons who had died due to electric shock, lightning and thunder, wall collapse and in floods on account of the heavy rains had been disbursed fully. Compensation to owners for the loss of cattle had also been fully disbursed. The relief for the partially damaged houses was being distributed speedily.

The meeting was told that 4,385 persons in the Districts of Erode, Tiruppur, Tiruvarur, Dindigul, Karur and Coimbatore were evacuated from their marooned places and lodged in 17 centres. As immediate relief measure to the eligible families, 10 kgs of rice, dhoti, saree, a litre of kerosene and a cash amount of Rs.1,000/- each were provided.

The District Collectors had been requested to forward reports about crop damage after the flood waters receded and crop loss assessed.

Details received at the Control room from Districts on the quantum of rains received and the damages caused by the rains through the helpline 1070 were also reviewed. The Hon'ble Minister requested officials to work with total dedication in times of calamity as the present one.

This review meeting follows those held by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 24.10.2014 and 28.10.2014 and by the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue on 16.10.2014 and 26.10.2014.

Services of Ziegenbalg to Tamil recalled

To commemorate the services of the German missionary Ziegenbalg to the Tamil language, a seminar was held under the auspices of the International Tamil Sangam (Madurai) on 28.10.2014 at the Platinum Jubilee Auditorium of the Madras University, Chennai. Ziegenbalg has the distinction of bringing out the first printed Tamil book.

Participating at the seminar, the Hon'ble Minister for School Education Thiru.K.C. Veeramani said the Government, with Tamil development in mind, had directed the conduct of various competitions for school and college students and had inculcated in the next generation an interest in the Tamil language. Various awards had been instituted

in the names of Tamil Scholars by way of honouring them. Also, a special award 'Tamil Thai Virudhu' was given to a Tamil outfit that had rendered excellent service to the language in other States and in foreign countries.

A 'Chief Minister's Computer Tamil Award' for those developing the best Tamil software had also been instituted. To take the Tamil language to the next generation, the project "Literary workshop for young Tamils" was being implemented, he said.

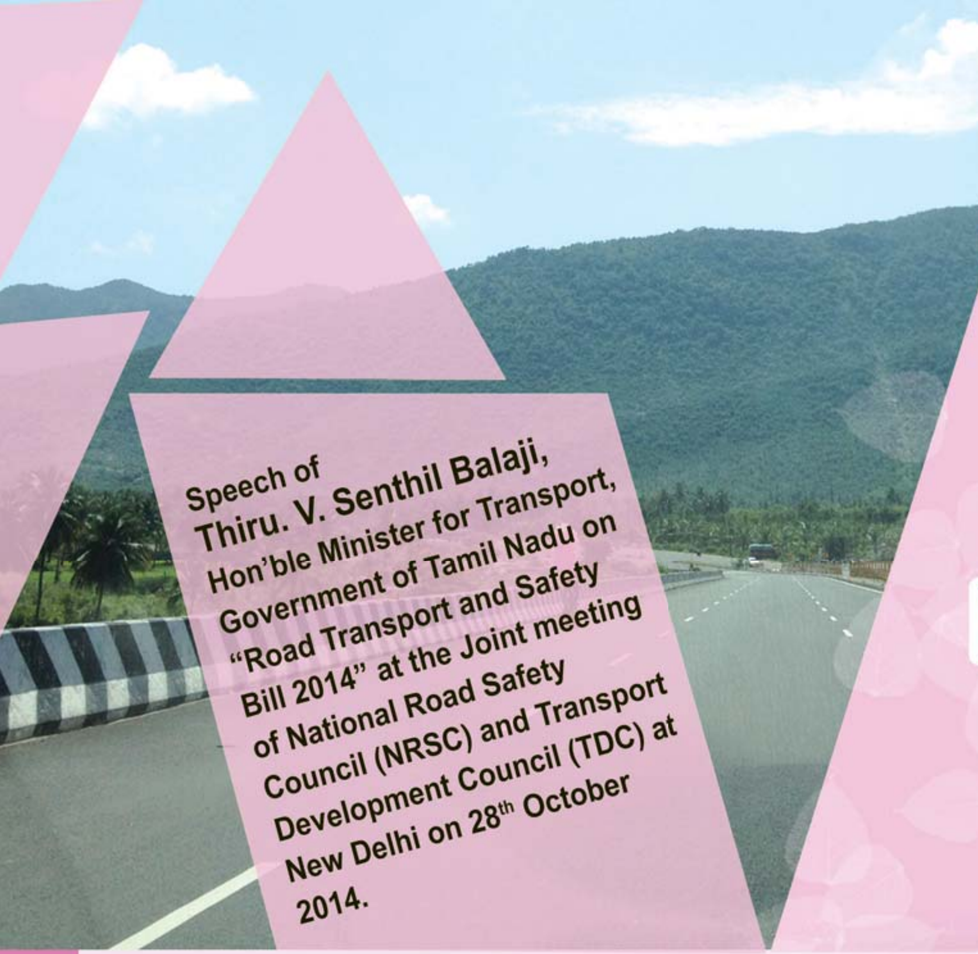
The conclusions reached in the research papers submitted in the seminar would act as a fillip for further research, the Hon'ble Minister said.

Presiding over the seminar, Prof. R.Thandavan, Vice-Chancellor of Madras University said Ziegenbalg was a notable person among the Europeans who had added lustre to Tamil. Along with 'Kodunthamizh Agarathi', 'Chenthamizh Agarathi' and 'Tamil Grammar', Ziegenbalg had published other religious books also. Research students should take forward the tasks left behind by him. Though he lived for a short period, his contribution to Tamil alone was perpetuating his memory even 300 years after his demise, the Vice-Chancellor said.

In his special address, Dr. M. Rajaram IAS, Secretary, Tamil Development and Information Department, Government of Tamil Nadu said the first printing press and the print type casting unit in India were started by Ziegenbalg at Tranquebar. The first prints of Tamil language rolled out of this press. Due to the efforts of Ziegenbalg, a church for Indian Christians, the New Jerusalem church was constructed and completed on 14th August, 1707. This church was expanded in 1717. For more than 300 years, this church served the Tamil Lutheran Assembly. After completing many incomparable tasks, Ziegenbalg died on February 23, 1719. Though Ziegenbalg's span of life was just 36 years, his service to Tamil would undoubtedly last till that language exists. The forerunner to the myriad books on Tamil literary history was the one written by Ziegenbalg. The best way to complete the work left behind by Ziegenbalg was to prepare a bibliography of Tamil works from Tholkappiam to the present day.

Dr. K. M. Sekar, Director Tamil Development Department, welcomed the gathering. Dr. Y. Manikandan Head of the Department of Tamil Literature, Madras University spoke. Prof. V.Arasu, Dr.Moses Michael Faraday, Prof. Thomas Edmunds, Dr. Y. Gnana Chandra Johnson, Dr. Daniel, Dr. P. David Prabhakar, Dr. Victor, Prof. Rev. Jacob Sundar Singh, Dr. K. Pasumpon and Rev. Jayaraj presented papers at the seminar. Dr. K. Pasumpon, Special Officer, International Tamil Sangam (Madurai), proposed a vote of thanks.

Tamil Nadu wants proposed Road Safety Bill redrafted



Speech of Thiru. V. Senthil Balaji, Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Government of Tamil Nadu on "Road Transport and Safety Bill 2014" at the Joint meeting of National Road Safety Council (NRSC) and Transport Development Council (TDC) at New Delhi on 28th October 2014.

Anaivarukkum Vanakkam,

At the outset, I bow my head in reverence to our Amma, the leader of all the people of Tamil Nadu, the benevolent guide of our Government, for shaping me and enabling me to place our views in this forum.

Respected Sri Nitin Jairam Gadkari Ji, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Government of India, Sri Krishna Pal Ji, Hon'ble Minister for State, Hon'ble Ministers of different States, Officers of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and Officers of the other State Transport Departments and other invitees.

Under the guidance of our visionary leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who always thinks for the betterment and the needs of people of Tamil Nadu, our Government has always been implementing people welfare oriented programmes in all spheres including Transport Department.

As we all know, a better transportation system is synonymous with development. We have 8 State Transport Corporations, 20,684 scheduled services operating on 91.20 lakh Kilometres per day enabling 2.10 crore passengers to travel on various types of buses. The State also operates 1,280 buses on inter-state services to neighbouring States. Thus our State stands as the second largest Public Bus Operator in the country. We have also initiated work on an International Standard Heavy Vehicle Driving Research and Training Institute at a cost of Rs.15 crore in Tamil Nadu on 26.06.2014 by Hon'ble Amma. There are 4,700 private stage carriages plying in our State. The State issues free bus passes to 30 lakhs students. Our Amma has introduced differently-abled friendly buses, travel Concession for Freedom Fighters, Cancer Patients etc., Daily/weekly/monthly concession passes, one third concession pass for regular

passengers, group ticket concession, e-ticket booking etc.,

To quench the thirst of travelling public, our Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has launched Amma packaged drinking water scheme at an affordable price of Rs.10/-.

Under the benevolent leadership of Hon'ble Amma a host of welfare schemes has been introduced which makes Tamil Nadu a model State:

❖ Employee welfare measures such as reservation in admission for wards of employees in STU run Medical College, Engineering College and Polytechnics and skill development programmes.

❖ All Employees more than 45 years of age are provided Master Health Check Up free of cost. Under the scheme 49,800 employees have been covered up to 01.10.2014.

❖ All employees are covered by health insurance scheme along with their family members.

❖ Under Employees voluntary blood donation scheme on the eve of the 66th Birth Anniversary of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, a Guinness record was created when 53,129 employees donated blood on a single day.

❖ Free uniform and washing allowance, Free travel pass to family up to 5,000 Kms/ year, Holiday home facility in tourist centers, 20% bonus to eligible employees, Family benefit fund, Crew amenity at all depots and terminus, perpetual refresher training to update knowledge of employees including simulator driver training are undertaken to ensure employees welfare.

❖ For the benefit of retired employees free travel bus passes are given.

Administration of Transport Department

Our Transport Department is so well organized that, people do not have to travel far to get their needs relating to licence and such services as we have offices at an average interval of 25 Sq.Km. We have also introduced Smart Card Pilot Project for driving licenses. The State has 12 Zonal Offices, 79 RTO Offices, 58 Unit Offices which cater to the needs of people in all 32 Districts in a timely and effective manner. Our vehicle population as on October 2014 is 1,96,49,419 (Transport and Non-transport). Keeping this in view, high levels of computerization and online tax collection have been undertaken to mitigate many grievances. **That is the reason why Tamil Nadu model has been a system worth emulating. Our State has gone for 100% Tax Collection for Non-Transport Vehicles in online mode on 19.06.2012 by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, thereby ensuring transparency and speedy service.**

Our Government, under a scheme conceptualized by Hon'ble Amma, allocated Rs.65 crore for Road Safety Fund for improving various aspects on Road safety and on the directions of our Hon'ble Amma Rs.10 crore was sanctioned for computerisation of testing track on the existing conventional track to ensure skillful drivers. A fully modernised check post at Pethikuppam near Chennai at a cost of Rs. 109.46 crore is also a step worthy of mention.

Through the EARCs (Emergency Accident Relief Centres) introduced by Hon'ble Amma

in the year 2002 precious lives are saved within the Golden Hours. 20,839 lives were saved from March 2011 upto September 2014. The deaths due to road accidents have come down from 15,072 in the year of 2012 to 14,504 in the year of 2013. Every year Rs.30 crores is earmarked for accident relief in this State.

The Government of India has now come up with a Draft Road Transport and Safety Bill of 2014 and has convened this meeting today, to get the views of the States. While thanking the Hon'ble Minister for giving the opportunity to the States to present their views, I must mention here that, the time given was quite inadequate to present elaborately the views of the State Government. However, I put forth here the major views of our State, while seeking more time for States to enable them to give their detailed views:

A) The Bill erodes and encroaches upon the powers of the State Government.

After the formation of independent statutory bodies like National Authority, National Transport Authority etc., the powers of the Central and State Governments to make rules to control and regulate motor vehicles have been deprived. Any welfare and Policy decision of the Central and State Governments cannot be directly implemented and they have to get the approval of these autonomous bodies.

A major change in the existing administrative set up has been proposed. The existing provision in Sec. 213 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1988, envisages that the State Government shall establish Motor Vehicles Department and appoint officers for the purpose of implementing the Act. There is no corresponding provision in the Draft Bill. It is not made clear how the services of the existing officers of the Transport Department of the State Government will be utilized and what will be their powers, duties and functions.

As per Chapter II of the proposed bill, there will be a vehicle Regulation and Road Safety Authority of India. **This National Authority has been given sweeping and wide ranging powers for making regulations which hitherto were being done by the State Governments.** Under Sec.22 of Chapter II, State Safety Authority have been delineated. This State Safety Authority will be subordinate and working on the overall directions of the National Authority. In such a situation the State Legislature cannot implement its well planned welfare schemes without having the approval of the National Authority. Hence this bill seriously encroaches on the legislating competence of the States.

B) The Bill makes serious inroads into the Financial, Legislative and Administrative Powers of the State Government.

All fees, fines, compounding fee, motor vehicle tax will be levied and collected by the National Authority by electronic platform and out of the revenue so collected in the whole country only a meagre amount will be apportioned to the States (vide Sec.86 of the proposed bill). The Motor Vehicle Tax which is a major revenue source to the State ex-chequer will be left to the decision of the National Authority. **It will severely affect the State's revenue resources.**

Sec.32 of the proposed bill has provisions for salary, allowances and other remuneration of

the Chairperson, other members and employees of the National Authority and the State Safety Authorities. It will also bear the expenses of National Authorities and State Authorities in the discharge of their functions. Hence, it appears that the State authorities will be only an extension of the National Authority. As a result, the State Government will have very limited powers to get its schemes implemented through them.

C) The Bill envisages privatisation of licensing procedures and authorities which will be detrimental to the safety and security of the public and their welfare.

As per the present draft bill Sec. 69(7), “For the issuance of a Driving Licence, passing a test of competence and valid proof of identity, as specified by the National Authority, shall be sufficient for the granting of a licence authorising the specific use of vehicles of any type and class if the test passed authorised the granting of a licence to drive vehicles of that type and class.” On reading the Sec.69(7), Sec.70 and Sec.73 of the proposed Bill, it appears that the test of competence will be handed over to an establishment and is not clear whether said body will be a Government body or a Private entity.

As per Sec. 9(3) of MV Act 1988 read with rule 15 (2) of CMVR 1989, “the test of competence to drive, referred to in Sec.9(3) shall be conducted by the Licensing Authority or such other person as may be authorised in this behalf by the State Government in a vehicle of the type to which the application relates.” The power of test of Competence should be vested only with the officials of the State Government to ensure public safety by granting Driving Licence to eligible persons.

D) The role of State Transport Corporations have been totally obliterated and the ability of the State Transport Corporation to provide affordable transport facilities to the common man, particularly the marginalised, downtrodden and those in remote rural areas will be in jeopardy.

Sec.336 of the proposed Road Transport and Safety Bill 2014 repeals the existing Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Under MV Act 1988 a separate provision under Chapter VI exist to protect the interest of State Transport Undertakings (Sec. 97 to Sec. 107) which has given wide ranging scope for the State Government to formulate scheme to operate buses for the development of the State by providing efficient, adequate, economical and properly co-ordinated road transport service. It

is felt necessary in the public interest, that road transport services in general should be run and operated by the State Transport Undertaking. Therefore, the provisions given in the existing chapter VI of the MV Act 1988 must be incorporated in the Draft Bill 2014 also.

The STUs are operating services to the remote villages, hill and other non-remunerative areas as a part of social obligation on behalf of State Government. The State in its endeavour to reach the people with safe, affordable and fast mode of transportation provides a variety of transport services such as Town, Mofussil, Ghat Express services through the State Transport Undertakings. The State Transport Corporations are operating services with an aim to carry more than 2.10 crore passengers by operating 91.20 lakh kilometres per day.

The public transport fares in Tamil Nadu are among the lowest in the country. This has greatly benefited all sections of the society, particularly economically weaker sections. This has been possible by my Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's people-centric policies and increased operational efficiency of the STU's.

In-spite of hikes in the diesel prices by the Central Government, the Government of Tamil Nadu has opted to absorb the additional burden of the STU's without passing on the burden to the common man.

Now there is no unserved village in Tamil Nadu. If the existing special provisions are withdrawn the fare burden on the poor and marginalized section of the society will be high. This may restrict their mobility and social interaction. Further operation of the buses to remote and unviable areas will get affected which leads to social tension and law and order problems.

State Transport Undertakings in Tamil Nadu have made tremendous achievements in the Socio-Economic development of the State utilizing the provisions under the existing MV Act 1988. This Draft Bill 2014, is also against the interests of the public, the employees of the STUs and the development of the state.

E) Powers of issuance of Inter-State and intra-state permits which has been the exclusive preserve of the State Government has been abrogated and entrusted with the newly created independent authorities which are merely creatures of the proposed Act.

As per the MV Act 1988, and the rules framed there under Intra-State permit are granted by RTA to operate within the District and permits covering more than one District are granted by the STA. Similarly, the Inter-State permits are granted by STA on reciprocal basis between reciprocating States under section 88(5) & 88

(6) of MV Act 1988. Both authorities mentioned above are constituted by State Government under Sec. 68 of MV Act 1988.

The proposed Bill Sec.145 (5) defines the word, “National Passenger Transport Permit”, for the use of transport vehicles on Inter State Routes by Sec. 145 (13), giving definitions for the word, “State Passenger Transport Permit” intended for operating within the State. Under Sec.155, the Authority Competent to grant permit for Inter-State Routes is the National Transport Authority, where as in the cases of Intra-State Permit it would be the State Transport Authority.

According to Sec. 149(11) of the proposed bill, any Scheme related to Intra State, declarable under Sec.149 by the State Transport Authority would become null and void if there is any repugnancy between the Schemes approved by the National Transport Authority and the State Transport Authority. This being so, when the Scheme prepared and published by the State Transport Authority for the purpose of operating buses on Intra-State Routes by the STUs or on the sectors by the private operators would be liable to be nullified to the extent provided in the Scheme notified by the National Transport Authority.

This situation would create a constitutional crisis because under Entry 35, List III of the Concurrent List, the State Government is the Competent Authority to make laws on mechanically propelled vehicles which is however subject to the principles on which Taxes on such vehicles are to be levied. Therefore, when the Scheme approved by the STA becomes inoperative by the corporation owned by the State, this would be tantamount to denial of rights to carry on by the State, or by a Corporation owned or controlled by the State of any trade, business, industry or service, whether to the exclusion, complete or partial of citizens or otherwise, under Article 19(b)(ii) of Constitution of India.

Therefore, empowering the National Transport Authority to notify a Scheme related to Inter-State Routes under Sec.147, would not stand the test of law by the Courts.

The powers of the State Government to formulate Scheme for Nationalization of bus services in the State will be taken away. The State Government would have to get the approval of the statutory bodies i.e. National Authority and National Transport Authority for such schemes and their decision shall be final. It is not made clear whether the existing schemes like Area Scheme will continue to be force in Tamil Nadu.

F) The competence of the State Legislature and the State Government to frame rules on Road Transport, public safety has been completely eroded and sought to be vested with statutory bodies to be created under the new Act.

Constitutional protection given to States to levy and collect taxes on motor vehicles is sought to be taken away by way of this Draft Bill. Part XI of the Constitution of India, concerns with relations between the Union and States. In entry 57 of List II (State List) annexed to the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution it is specified that “the Legislature of any State has exclusive power to make laws for such State or any part thereof with respect to-taxes

on vehicles, whether mechanically propelled or not, suitable for use on roads, including tramcars subject to the provisions of entry 35 of List III. Therefore, the State is empowered to levy and collect taxes on motor vehicles used in that State. This power cannot be taken away from the State by way of this Draft Bill which proposes to levy and collect motor vehicle tax in single window system and apportion a specified amount to the State. Therefore the Draft Bill is against this Constitutional provision and it needs reconsideration.

G) The Penal provisions envisaged for traffic offences are grossly contrary to the provisions of the IPC and, therefore, are unacceptable.

For Example, as per Sec.302 of the proposed bill under chapter XIV with the caption of "causing death in circumstances the following provisions are given,

1. Whoever while driving a motor vehicle or attempting to drive a motor vehicle causes death of a person shall be punishable for an offence in accordance with schedule III and subjected to an immediate cancellation of licence.

2. A person commits an offence if: the person does not complete a compulsory impairment test in a manner satisfactory to a police officer who is trained to give the test as prescribed by the National Authority, when required to do so by a police officer under Sec.322"

The above provision of Sec.302 is not in consonance with IPC 304(A). Hence all the provisions under Sec.285 to Sec.332 under Schedule III of the proposed bill have to be reconsidered and the penalty provisions should be well considered in tune with IPC.

H) The rationale to introduce such drastic changes and throw away lock, stock and barrel the existing provisions in the Motor Vehicle Act 1988 is totally unwarranted.

The powers of the State Government to control and regulate Motor vehicles in the State are guaranteed by the provisions in the List III (concurrent list) Annexed to Schedule VII and Chapter XI of the Constitution of India. The Draft Bill does not contain any provisions to this effect. Necessary modification may be made to

protect the powers of the State Government.

The powers of the State Government to levy Tax on Motor vehicles in the State are guaranteed by the provisions in the List II (State list) Annexed to Schedule VII and Chapter XI of the Constitution of India. The Draft Bill does not contain any provisions to this effect. Necessary modification may be made to protect the powers of the State Government.

The powers of the State Government to establish Motor Vehicles Department and appoint Officers as in Sec.213 of Motor Vehicles Act 1988 should be continued and necessary provisions should be made in the Draft Bill.

Liberal issue of permits to privately operated Public Passenger Transport services is against State Policy of Nationalization of Bus services and it is opposed to public interest too. Necessary provisions may be made in the Draft Bill to protect the powers of the State Government to formulate the Schemes for continued operation of State Transport Undertakings in specified area.

The powers of Testing of Drivers and inspection of motor vehicles should not be entrusted to any private agency. It should be continued to be vested with the officers of the Motor Vehicles Department established by the State Government.

The powers and functioning of the bodies like National Authority, National Transport Authority etc., should be only advisory in nature and not regulatory or directory to the Legislating powers of the State.

Though the Bill has some welcome features like providing medical facilities in the Golden Hour, cashless treatment to victims of road accidents, insurance to be made compulsory, etc., when read in its entirety it is found to be grossly impinging on the rights of the State Government to provide Transport Services to the Public.

The Bill erodes and abrogates the powers of the State Government and the responsibility cast on the State by the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution. The Bill, therefore, requires redrafting which will be examined clause-wise and communicated to the Government of India within a month.

I thank Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, Government of India, for inviting me to present the views of the Government of Tamil Nadu on this occasion. Nandri, Vanakkam.

Monitor implementation of Rule 110 Schemes, officials told

Measures initiated on the announcements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister under Rule 110 in the Tamil Nadu Legislature in respect of the Departments of Information and Stationery and Printing and their current status were reviewed at a meeting held at the Secretariat on 07.11.2014. Hon'ble Minister for Information and Special Programmes Implementation Thiru.K.T. Rajenthrabhalaji presided.

The Hon'ble Minister urged the Department officials to work with one-pointedness for the total implementation of the announcements of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Adequate steps should be taken to intensify the working of the Information Department. The role of the officials of the Department was crucial in conveying to the public the benefits of the various schemes. They should work with a sense of duty and responsibility.

Memorials should be kept clean. Their maintenance needed continuous monitoring. Existing vacancies in the Department should be filled up, he said.

The review covered, among other things the wings of Publication, Reference, Memorials, Exhibition, Tamil Arasu office, documentary films, MGR Government Film and TV Training Institute, and the Department of Stationery and Printing.

'Save Today for Safe Tomorrow'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. O. Panneerselvam on World Thrift Day -- 30.10.2014
(English Translation)

To stress the importance of thrift and savings, October 30th is observed every year as 'World Thrift Day'

Saint Tiruvalluvar, who has given several ethical codes for proper living also underlines the importance of saving money by stating in one of his couplets: "Heaven eludes the pitiless; this world, the one without means".

In line with the saying "Save today for a Safe tomorrow", parents should point out to their wards even at an young age the importance of saving money for a happy and secure future. They too should practice what they say.

Realising the importance of savings, if people invest in small savings schemes, the money will not only help them in future but also be useful in the implementation of the Government's development programmes and in the country's growth.

On World Thrift Day, I solicit the people of Tamil Nadu to start recurring deposit accounts in nearby post offices for their own prosperity and economic security.

Thiru. H.E. Miloslav Stasek, Czechoslovakia Ambassador in India and an University Team from that country called on the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Thiru. P. Palaniappan at Chennai on 31.10.2014. Principal Secretary of Higher Education DepartmentThiru. Hemanth Sinha, Vice-chancellors of Universities and other high officials were present.

Steps for upkeep of Kumbakonam temples, tank

Tenders are to be floated shortly for repairing and beautification of 69 temples in Kumbakonam town including those of Arulmigu Shodasa Mahalingaswami Temple around the Mahamaham tank in connection with the Mahamaham festival to be held in February 2016.

The work costing Rs. 12 crore is being taken up in accordance with a statement made by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the State Legislature on 12.08.2014 under Rule 110.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma directed the Environment Department to allot Rs. 72 lakh in January 2014 for the conservation of the Mahamaham tank. Works have started. For the repairing and sprucing up of the 16 Siva temples around the Mahamaham tank, Rs. 19.38 lakh has been allotted. Tenders will be floated shortly for this work.

The over 100-year-old brick and mortar Kodungai structure on the ceiling of the granite 16-pillar mandapam in the Arulmigu Mukundeswarar Temple, one of the Shodasa Mahalinga Swami temples, suddenly collapsed to an extent of 50 sq.ft. on 01.11.2014 due to heavy rains.

This Government, treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, immediately took steps to repair the kodungai, keeping its heritage value intact. The repair work will start shortly.

The Government will also take steps shortly to repair a mandapam in front of Arulmigu Jayaveera Anjaneyar Temple, a public temple under the control and maintenance of a particular community. The mandapam had collapsed following the incessant rains.

Officials urged to expedite construction of warehouses

A review meeting on the functioning of the Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation was held on 05.11.2014 under the guidance of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma at the Headquarters of the Corporation at Guindy, Chennai. Hon'ble Minister for Food Thiru. R. Kamaraj presided.

The Minister said in the 3 years between 2011 and 2014, 14 Warehouses with a total capacity of 61,000 metric tonnes were constructed and brought into use. Preliminary works had started for the construction of Warehouses at Nagapattinam and Tiruchengode with a capacity of 3,400 metric tonnes each. Steps had been taken to have such ones at Nannilam, Valangaiman and Tirupathur with a capacity of 3,000 metric tonnes each. Twenty- five warehouses were proposed to be constructed with total capacity of 1.25 lakh metric tonnes at Salem, Dharmapuri, Karur, Ramanathapuram, Cuddalore, Tirunelveli, Theni, Ranipet and Musiri. All these would boost the storage capacity of the Corporation to 8.36 lakh metric tonnes from 6.33 lakh metric tonnes, he said and urged officials to work ceaselessly for early completion of the construction of warehouses as also for the maintenance of the existing ones.

Banks extend loans of 70 to 75 per cent against warehouse receipt to agriculturists

and manufacturers. In the last 3 years, 7,583 beneficiaries have obtained Rs. 468 crore as loan. The first 3 prizes and 2 special prizes of the National Warehouses Development and Regulation Authority, New Delhi were bagged by the Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation for rendering the maximum service in an excellent way to farmers and producers.

Farmers, he said, would be given training at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh for preserving and safe-keeping their seed grains. Preliminary works had been started to set up 7 testing laboratories at a cost of Rs. 7 crore (at the rate of Rs. 1 crore each) so that farmers can learn testing the quality of foodgrains and preserving the grains using modern techniques.

After listing the major users of the Corporation's godowns, the Hon'ble Minister also informed that discount from 5 to 25 per cent for Government undertakings and up to 30 per cent for farmers and for goods including rice meant for free distribution was given in the warehouse charges.

World Diabetes Day- November 14

Eat healthy, avoid complications

World Diabetes Day was created in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation and WHO. "The World Diabetes Day 2014 campaign" marks the first of a three-year (2014-16) focus on healthy living and diabetes. The latest estimates from the IDF Diabetes Atlas indicate that there are 382 million people living with diabetes worldwide. By 2035, 592 million people or one person in ten will have the disease. Up to half of all people with diabetes globally remain undiagnosed. These facts and figures reiterate the importance of urgent action. The 2014 edition aims to highlight the importance of eating healthy to help prevent type 2 diabetes and avoid the serious complications of diabetes. The initiative promotes the benefits of starting the day with a healthy breakfast, which can help individuals manage their weight and, for people living with diabetes, keep blood glucose levels stable.

The key messages of the campaign include:

- Make healthy food the easy choice
- Healthy eating: make the right choice
- Healthy eating begins with breakfast

Revenue officials told to realise targets, provide flawless service to people

The Hon'ble Minister for Commercial Taxes and Registration, Thiru. M.C. Sampath urged officials to pay greater attention and work with one-pointedness to realise the target of revenue collection of Rs. 10,470.18 crore fixed for 2014-2015.

The collection was Rs. 4,001.31 crore till September 30, 2014.

Addressing officials at a review meeting on 28.10.2014 at the office of the Registrar-General, Department of Registration, the Hon'ble Minister said land had to be acquired for 41 sub-registrar offices. If the lands were acquired and own buildings raised, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's assurance of housing all the sub-registrars' offices in their own buildings in 5 years would come to be realised. Keeping this in mind, department officials should fully exert themselves to acquire lands and get in touch with the District Collectors concerned to expedite the work.

The web search facility for details of encumbrance in respect of one's properties, launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister

on 11.06.2014 had a good response. Till 27.10.2014, 20 lakh search hits have been registered at the rate of 20,000 on an average every day.

As uninterrupted power supply was essential for the various kinds of work done in the sub-registrars' offices, generators were distributed last year to 167 sub-registrars' offices. Orders had been issued to supply 150 more generators for the various offices in the current year. Steps should be taken to install generators in the remaining 261 sub-registrar's offices in the current year itself, the Hon'ble Minister said.

Development of web-based software as decided by the committee headed by the Chief Secretary, their implementation and contract procedures were reviewed in detail. When this scheme was implemented, the Hon'ble Minister said, there would be hundred per cent computerisation, paving the way for the availability of a large number of services to the public through net.

Progress achieved in the implementation of announcements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister under Rule 110 and in the Budget in respect of the department was also reviewed.

The Hon'ble Minister instructed officials to adhere to the orders issued by the Government for preventing registration by impersonation and registration of fake documents and to do the registration of documents in a way beneficial to people after examining earlier documents, income documents and the latest encumbrance certificate. The twin targets for officials was realisation of income target and flawless and wholesome service to the people, he said. ■

A training programme, under the guidance of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, for teaching through animation to increase the pass percentage in 10th standard examination, was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for School Education Thiru. K.C. Veeramani on 10.11.2014.

Minister reviews welfare programmes, relief measures

The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Thiru. R. B. Udhaya Kumar on 06.11.2014 reviewed the different welfare programmes implemented by the Revenue Department and the relief measures taken up on a war footing in the monsoon-affected Districts. The meeting took place at the 24-hour State Emergency Control Centre located in the Office of the Commissioner, Revenue Administration.

The review covered the various freebies schemes, free distribution of house pattas, speedy transfer of pattas, pension schemes costing Rs. 4,200 crore, new buildings for the department, removal of encroachments, computerization programmes, disbursal of relief assistance to those affected by the North-East Monsoon as decided by the high-level meeting convened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the current status of the execution of relief measures in the Districts of Kanniyakumari, Thoothukudi and Coimbatore. The Hon'ble Minister urged the District Administration to remain alert to deal with natural calamities that occur in the Monsoon season with the help of all Government Departments.

Aavin to publicise its milk tests through Internet

Steps will be taken to publicise on the Internet, for the benefit of consumers, how Aavin milk is subjected to various types of tests in the laboratory before it is sold to the public.

This was stated in a press release issued after the Hon'ble Minister for Dairy Development Thiru. B.V. Ramana reviewed the sale of Aavin Milk and Milk products in Chennai city.

On the advice of the Minister, the Aavin establishment is to take immediate steps to modernize Aavin Milk parlours, open the modernized Anna Nagar parlour, start locating such parlours at Besant Nagar and Virugambakkam and modernize the ones at Adyar and T. Nagar.

The 16 circle offices of Aavin and their Milk parlours will be housed in own buildings and made to offer services in an excellent way under one roof.

New monthly milk cards will be issued to consumers after verification of the details furnished in their applications. Transferring of monthly milk cards from one location to another has been made easy.

Action will be taken to effect sale of Aavin Milk products in big commercial complexes in and around Chennai, recreation places and in festival spots where people gather in large numbers.

‘Control wildlife impact on villages’

The Hon’ble Minister for Forests Thiru. M.S.M. Anandan has urged forest officials to take adequate preventive measures to control wildlife impact on the Villages adjoining forest areas.

At a consultative meeting of high officials of the Forest Department on 28.10.2014 at the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, the Hon’ble Minister exhorted the officials to take immediate steps to improve the water resources for the wildlife in forests by creating check dams, percolation ponds, setting up water tubs, water holes, drinking water facilities, artificial water structures, deep borewells in reserve forests, providing drinking water facilities in the habitats of Scheduled Tribes and maintaining and improving the existing resources.

Field staff should also be vigilant to prevent forest crimes like theft of wood, poaching of wild life and encroachment of forest lands, he said.

The Hon’ble Minister reviewed the execution of the forest development programmes of Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma’s Government undertaken in 2014-2015, particularly the massive tree planting programmes taken up in the years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 for 65 lakh trees at a cost of Rs. 43.55 crore, and in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, 66 lakh trees at a cost of Rs. 49.18 crore.

The Hon’ble Minister also reviewed with officials the steps taken to get Government orders on the announcements made by the Hon’ble Chief Minister under Rule 110, and on those made by the Hon’ble Minister for Forests and on those made by the Finance Minister in the Budget. He urged the officials to take speedy action on implementing all plan projects.

Swift steps to tackle problems of people due to rain damages

Under People's Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's guidance, the Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons, Thiru.S.P.Velumani conducted a review meeting at the Secretariat on 21.10.2014 on the steps to be taken by Panchayats in the wake of the onset of North-East Monsoon.

At the meeting, the Minister learnt of the damages caused by the monsoon rains in the 12,524 Village Panchayats in the State and the 385 Panchayat Unions comprising 79,394 hamlets and the steps taken to deal with the situation.

The Minister suggested the setting up of a team of officers for taking steps on a war – footing for bailing out stagnant water, repairing damaged roads, removing blockages in sewers and clearing roads of fallen trees. The Minister advised speedy action on spraying insecticides and cleansing the rural environs to halt the spread of infectious diseases on account of the rains, and prominent display of emergency phone numbers and the phone numbers of important officials, to enable people reach the officials round-the-clock. For sanitary work, 20 temporary staff have been appointed in each Panchayat Union and they are working in co-ordination with the Public Health Department. In such a situation, officials should ensure that enough stocks of chlorine, bleaching powder etc., are kept for cleansing the overhead and ground-level tanks in Village Panchayats; the Minister said.

Safety measures to avert breaches in lakes and tanks under the control of Panchayat Unions and Panchayats on account of the rains and all possible steps to restore electricity and drinking water supply in the rain-affected areas should be taken, the Minister urged.

Minister declares open modern Aavin parlour

The modernised Aavin milk parlour near Anna Nagar Tower, Chennai was declared open by the Hon'ble Minister for Dairy Development Thiru. B.V. Ramana on 10.11.2014. The modernization has been effected at a cost of Rs. 20 lakh. Thiru. A. Miller, President, Tamil Nadu Milk Producers' Co-operative Federation inaugurated the sales.

To mark the occasion, a 10 per cent discount was given in the maximum retail price of ice cream products purchased at this parlour for 3 days – till 12.11.2014.

All milk products of Aavin, pizza and different flavours of ice cream will be sold at this parlour. Customers can order either existing kinds of branded ice creams or a cocktail of ice creams blended with nuts of their choice like cashew, badam and the like. An artistically decorated enclosure is also available at the rear for families to organise small functions. Customers can come to the parlour, taste Aavin products or celebrate family get-togethers.

Aavin milk products are sold at 365 places in and around Chennai through its own parlours, licensed retail sale outlets and parlours run by franchicees. The Aavin establishment is modernising its milk parlours and the first to go modern is the Anna Nagar Tower parlour. Preliminary works to set up a drive-in Aavin parlour at Virugambakkam and a modernised one at Besant Nagar have been started. The sites for locating modern Aavin milk parlour at Tiruvanmiyur and T. Nagar have been selected.

NEWS IN PICTURES

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries and Labour Welfare Thiru. P. Mohan inaugurated on 11.11.2014 an immunisation camp for the ITC workers at the factory premises, WIMCO Nagar, Chennai. The camp was organised by the ESI Hospital, Ayanavaram.

Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Nutritious Noon Meal Programme Tmt. B. Valarmathi presided over a consultative meeting on the works carried out by the Department under Integrated Child Development Scheme, at the Secretariat on 05.11.2014

NEWS IN PICTURES

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, a review meeting on the working of 24 Co-operative Marketing Societies and their growth was held on 03.11.2014. Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation Thiru. Sellur K. Raju presided. Presidents of the Societies participated.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, a meeting was held on 11.11.2014 to review the activities of the Department of Sugar. Hon'ble Minister for Industries Thiru. P. Thangamani presided.

NEWS IN PICTURES

A review meeting on the working of the Department of Municipal Administration and Drinking Water Supply was held on 05.11.2014 under the guidance of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prison Thiru. S. P. Velumani presided.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, a review meeting with the Zonal Joint Directors and Deputy Directors of the Department of Animal Husbandry was held on 30.10.2014. Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry Thiru. T.K.M. Chinnayya presided.

Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms and Textile, Tmt. S.Gokula Indira distributed the interest subsidy sanctioned by the Central Government and routed through the Virudhunagar Handloom cluster to 22 Handloom weavers' co-operative societies in six districts, on 20.10.2014 at Chennai. Principal Secretary, Handloom, Textile and Khadi Department, Chairman and Director of Co-optex and other high officials were present on the occasion.

Hon'ble Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare Dr. S. Sundararaj, under the guidance of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, inaugurated on 11.11.2014 the State level sports competitions for Chief Minister's Trophy at the Nehru Indoor Sports Stadium, Chennai. He interacted with the participants of women's Kabbadi event and encouraged them to excel.

NEWS IN PICTURES

Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribal Welfare Thiru. N. Subramanian presided over a meeting that reviewed the programmes to be implemented under the Scheduled Tribes Development Scheme for the year 2014-2015. Secretary, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Managing Director TAHDCO, Director, Tribal Welfare Department and other high officials participated on 17.10.2014.

Hon'ble Minister for Environment Thiru. Thoppu N.D. Venkatachalam inaugurated on 10.11.2014 the real time ambient noise monitoring network in Chennai and presided over a review meeting of zonal and district-level officers of the Pollution Control Board.The network will enable people to know the level of noise pollution at 10 places in Chennai, displayed in a digital board placed at the office of the Board.

The 184th Board meeting of Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board took place at Chennai on 28.10.2014. Hon'ble Minister for Khadi Thiru. T.P. Poonachi presided.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Thiru. S. Abdul Rahim received Hajj Pilgrims on their return at Chennai airport on 21.10.2014.

Openings for FTTH engineers, drivers

FTTH Engineers, below 35 years of age with BE/B.Tech qualification and 2 years' experience are required for appointment in the electronic/telecom division of the Indian Telecom for executing its plan projects.

A press release from the Managing Director, Overseas Manpower Corporation, Chennai says the required candidates should have experience in planning, designing, implementation and experience in programmes like "Auto CAD" and the like.

Drivers below 50 years of age and having Kuwait driving licence for heavy/light vehicles are also wanted for employment.

Selected persons will be paid as per qualification and experience and are eligible for free air travel, lodging food allowance and other concessions as per Kuwait Country's laws.

Those with the requisite qualifications and desirous of taking up the above mentioned jobs are requested to immediately apply to the Overseas Manpower Corporation, a Tamil Nadu Government undertaking, located at the Integrated Employment Exchange, Thiru. Vi.Ka. Industrial Estate, No. 42, Alandur Road, Guindy, Chennai – 32 in person or by the e-mail: ovemcl@gmail.com.

The application with bio-data, should have detail education qualification, experience, passport details and a photo.

Further information can be obtained by contacting 044-22502267/22505886 or from the website www.omcmanpower.com.

Entries invited for Tamil software Award

Every year 'Chief Minister's Computer Tamil Award' is presented through the Tamil Development Department for encouraging those who develop Tamil software for the growth of computer Tamil.

The award carries Rs. 1,00,000/- along with a gold medal weighing one sovereign and a citation.

Applications are invited for this award for the year 2014. The Software for entry to the competition should have been developed in the years 2011, 2012 and 2013.

The application form and rules governing the Award can be downloaded free of cost from the website of the Department of Tamil Development (www.tamilvalarchithurai.org).

The last date for receipt of the applications is 31.12.2014. The application should be sent to

The Director of Tamil Development
Directorate of Tamil Development,
Halls Road, Egmore,
Chennai – 600 008.
Contact No: 28190412; 28190413.

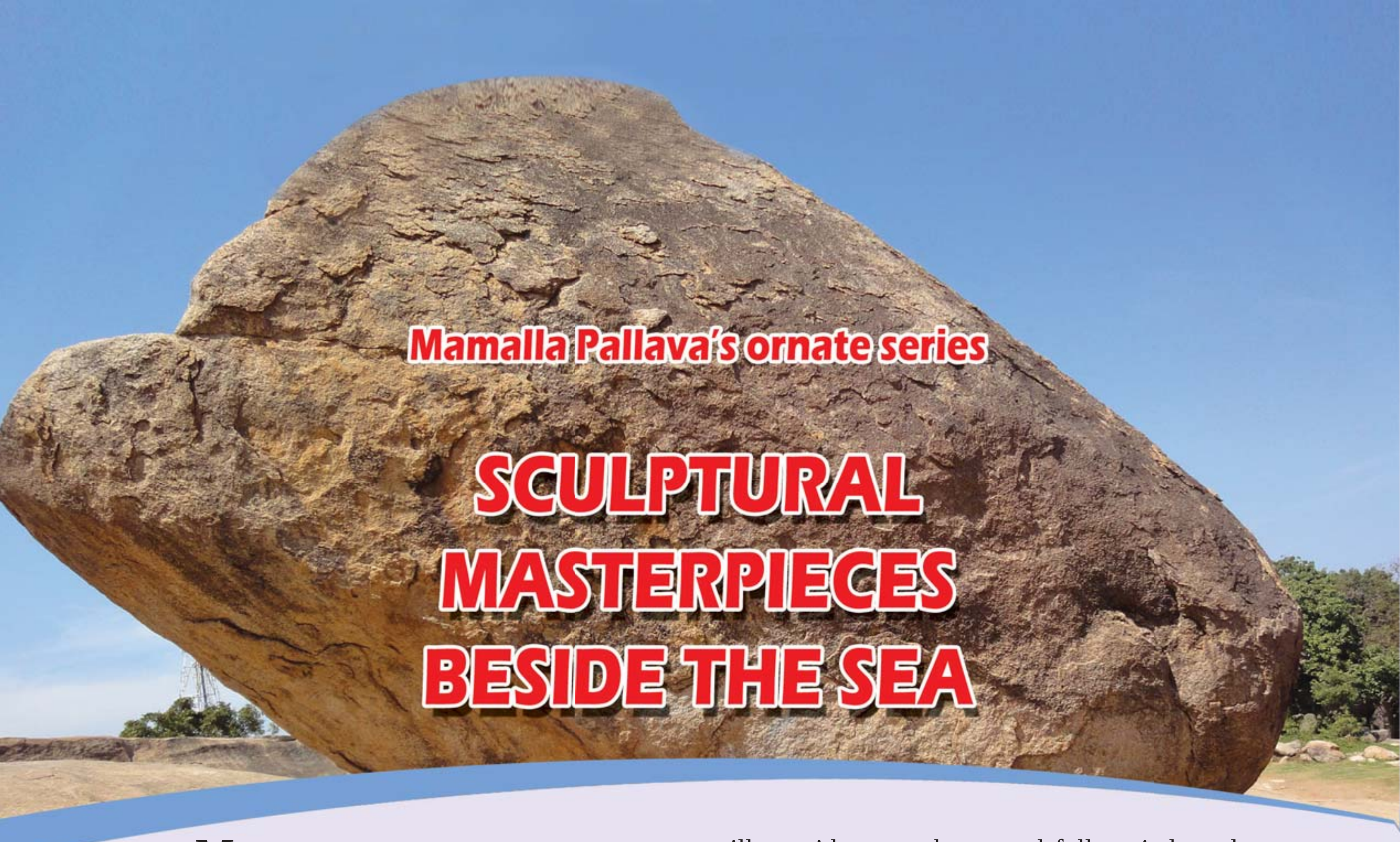
Unity

If truth and love unite,
even the glowing fire becomes the good sandal.
Finally justice will triumph.
Believe it firmly.
Unity is the backbone of the country.
The wicked enemy's attack is
just like a fragment of fuel wood falling on fire.
Refuting always everything is never a talent.
A good heart lessens vices softly.
If the country should progress,
let us have a feeling of national integrity.
The people of frustration only create
discord in society without any norm whatsoever.
If qualities of generosity and peace be on the decrease,
the social solidarity will be at stake.

-From 'Surada's Poetry'

Tamil Poet Surada's birth anniversary falls on November 23

Hon'ble Minister for Health Dr. C. Vijayabaskar, inaugurated under the guidance of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, a 2-day training camp for Psychiatrists in Districts and social activists in psychology and also released a handbook on 31.10.2014. The camp was organised jointly by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Tamil Nadu Government and NIMHANS, Bengaluru.



Mamalla Pallava's ornate series

SCULPTURAL MASTERPIECES BESIDE THE SEA

Mahendra's great son and successor, Narasimhavarman I Mamalla (630-668), in addition to excavating some Mahendra style cave-temples like the Orukkal mandapam and the Kotikal mandapam initiated a new and more ornate series of cut-in cave-temples.

This was in addition to his unique invention of totally cut-out monolithic temple forms, or vimanas, the so-called rathas, and some open air bas-relief compositions of considerable size and superb quality, all confined to the great Pallava port-city of Mamallapuram or Mahabalipuram.

These ornate cave temples that Mamalla initiated were mostly completed in stages by his immediate successors for two generations, who also created a few monuments in the same style and at the same place. The outstanding development discernible in these is a fuller representation of their mandapa facades, their interior decoration and the replacement of the square massive pillars and pilasters by typical pillars with ornate bases and full capitals and all the moulded members of the 'order', thus making the stone copies more true to their contemporary structural originals in brick and timber.

The adhishthana, or plinth, shows all the usual mouldings as could be seen in the finished examples. The mandapa facade has a fully represented entablature, or prastara, which constitutes all the architectural parts coming over the beam and including it, as against what is seen in the Mahendra-style cave-temples. The prastara is fully finished with a flexed kapota, or an eaves-like cornice projection, decorated by horseshoe-shaped kudu arches. The prastara has also a string of miniature shrines above it, all of oblong plan, often with a barrel-vaulted roof, the sala, while in the later examples, the sala string ends at either extremity in similar miniature shrine models of square plan with a four-sided domical roof, the kuta. The entire

string constitutes what is called the hara with interconnecting lengths of cloister. The pillars generally conform to the wooden prototypes, but are taller and slenderer and have their bases often shaped into squatting lions. The top of the shafts has the variously moulded capital members such as the malasthana, the padma bandha, the kalasa, the tadi, the kumbha, the pali, and the phalaka or abacus, the last-mentioned one omitted in some cases, and the topmost member carrying the corbel or potika, with curved profile and roll ornamentation, or Taranga, with a median plain patta.

Their mandapas are often demarcated into front and rear sections by an inner row of pillars. The shrine fronts, one, three or five, are at the rear of the inner mandapa, project more into the mandapa, and have all the angas of a vimana front, namely, moulded adhishthana, pilasters, or kudya-stambhas, with capital components as detailed above and prastara with well-formed kapota and kudu decorations. The further superstructure of the vimana is not shown, as in a depiction of the interior aspect of a mandapa with the shrine behind, the upper parts of the vimana would not be visible. The prastara of the shrine front abuts on the mandapa ceiling.

There are eight such cave-temples in various stages of completion: the Koneri mandapam, the Varaha mandapam, the Mahishamardini mandapam (locally called yamapuri mandapam), an unfinished cave-temple next to the Koneri mandapam, the Pancha Pandava mandapam, the Adivaraha cave-temple called Paramesvara Mahavaraha Vishnu-griha in its inscriptions and the Ramanuja mandapam. Of these the Varaha and Ramanuja mandapams

have undivided mandapas while the koneri mandapam and the Adivaraha cave-temple have their mandapas divided into ardha- and mukha-mandapam by an inner line of pillars. The Mahishamardini mandapam is peculiar in that its principal central shrine is preceded by a square and a pillared portico projected into the larger mandapa, as in the case of the Dalavanur cave-temple. The Pancha Pandava mandapam records an attempt to cut a square central shrine with a surrounding cloister in the form of a mandapa having two rows of pillars running all round. The varaha mandapam and the Adivaraha cave-temples have each a single shrine-cell while the Mahishamardini and the Ramanuja mandapams have three shrine-cells in them; the koneri mandapam has five in a row behind the mandapam.

The Mamalla-style cave-temples show a marked advance over the Mahendra type in plastic decoration also, in having a wealth of large and fine sculptures in addition to the usual dvarapala sculptures. These are often synoptic, narrating important Puranic legends. The Varaha mandapam, which is the most complete cave temple and has been preserved in all its parts, contains bas relief compositions of Bhuvaraha and Trivikrama inside large panels on the side walls of its mandapam.

Its back wall has two more --- one on either side of the projected shrine entrance, carrying panels of Gajalakshmi and Durga. The front and side walls of the projected shrine front have niches with dvarapala sculptures. The manner in which the boar-head of Bhuvaraha merges at the neck imperceptibly with the human body is a masterpiece of art not equalled by similar representation in the Gupta and other sculptures. The central shrine is now empty, but perhaps once contained painted or stucco representation of Narasimha.

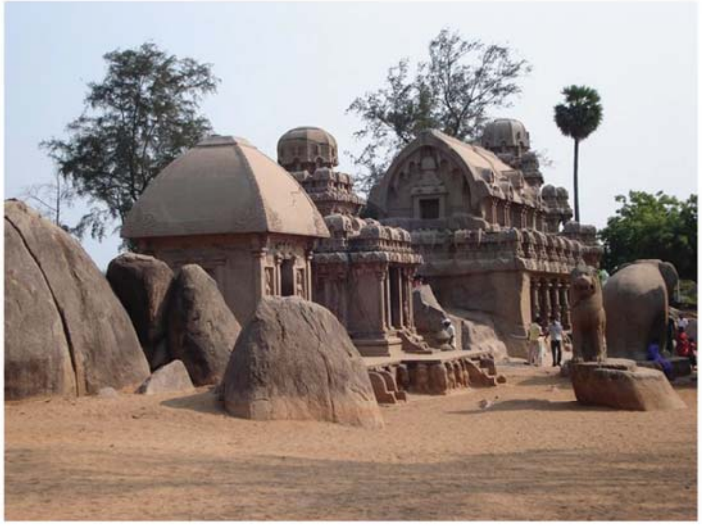
Almost identical, but more artistic and graceful delineations of Gajalakshmi and Durga are reproduced in almost the same positions on the rear wall panels on either side of the projected shrine entrance in the Adivaraha cave-temple. In addition, the front wall of the projected central shrine of the Adivaraha cave temple has three niches, each on either side of the entrance

containing other sculptures. The niches flanking the entrance contain dvarapalas. The two central wider niches, one on each side have sculptures of standing Vishnu and Harihara, respectively. The extreme ones on the north and south show a Nagaraja or Adisesha in human form with the five-headed serpent-hood and a portrait sculpture in graceful tribhanga posture. The south and north walls of the mukha-mandapa contain large reliefs of standing Brahma, and Siva as Gangadhara. Similar panels on the south and north walls of the ardha mandapa have almost life-size royal portrait groups of the Pallava kings, Simhavishnu and Mahendra with their queens and consorts and with label inscriptions over them indicating their identity. The main sanctum contains a modern stucco form of Varaha Murthi. This temple is in use for worship while others are not.

The bas relief sculptures of Durga on the south and Gajalakshmi on the north side walls of the Ramanuja mandapam have been totally chiselled off in later times by the Vaishanava occupants as also the three shrine fronts and their dvarapalas of this original triple-celled Siva cave temple. The back wall of the central shrine retains traces of a Somaskanda group. The Mahishamardini cave-temple contains on the two side walls of its mandapa two of the most celebrated and famous Pallava sculptures, namely, Durga as Mahishasuramardini, mounted on a leaping lion and battling with Mahishasura and his hordes on the north, and Vishnu as Anantasayin in yoga nidra, or contemplative sleep, on a serpent couch on the south. Besides the beauty, grace, vigour and agility depicted in Durga, the clever synthesis of the buffalo head and human body of the demon Mahishasura would equal only that of the Varaha from mentioned above, not to speak of the defiance and haughtiness depicted by his stance and demeanour even in the animal face. All these sculptures would thus constitute some of the earliest extant representations of the respective forms and as such afford valuable material for a study of development of early iconography in the south.

Recent search (by Lockwood, Siromoney and Dayanandan - Mahabalipuram studies) has established that the dvarapalas of the Pallava cave temples, Saivite and Vaishnavite, are really ayudapurushas, or deified personifications of the appropriate weapons of Siva (sula and parasu, i.e. trident and axe) or of Vishnu (sanka and chakra, i.e.conch and discus), which are shown on the headgear of the concerned dvarapala. Also it has been demonstrated that the original dedication of the Mahishamardini cave temple was to Vishnu, subsequently made Saivite in the same century by the introduction of the large Somaskanda panel, on the lined wall of the shrine, in place of the original Vishnu that was perhaps a painted stucco. Appropriately enough, the two dvarapalas wedged in a curious manner into the narrow spaces on either side of the shrine's door-jamb, were afterthoughts likewise, modified for the Saivite re-dedication as also the two flanking shrine-cells on either side in the trimurti pattern, Vishnu occupying the place of precedence in the central cella in the original scheme.

Though not strictly cave temples like his Atiranachanda mandapam, other creations of Rajasimha Pallava (700-728) in the series of rock carvings found in Mahabalipuram and neighbourhood are the Yali mandapam



replica of the Yali mandapam is found on the surf-beaten boulder to the south of the Shore temple in Mahabalipuram. To the north of the temple is another larger rock called the Mahishamardini rock with a large lion face and Durga niche in its bosom.

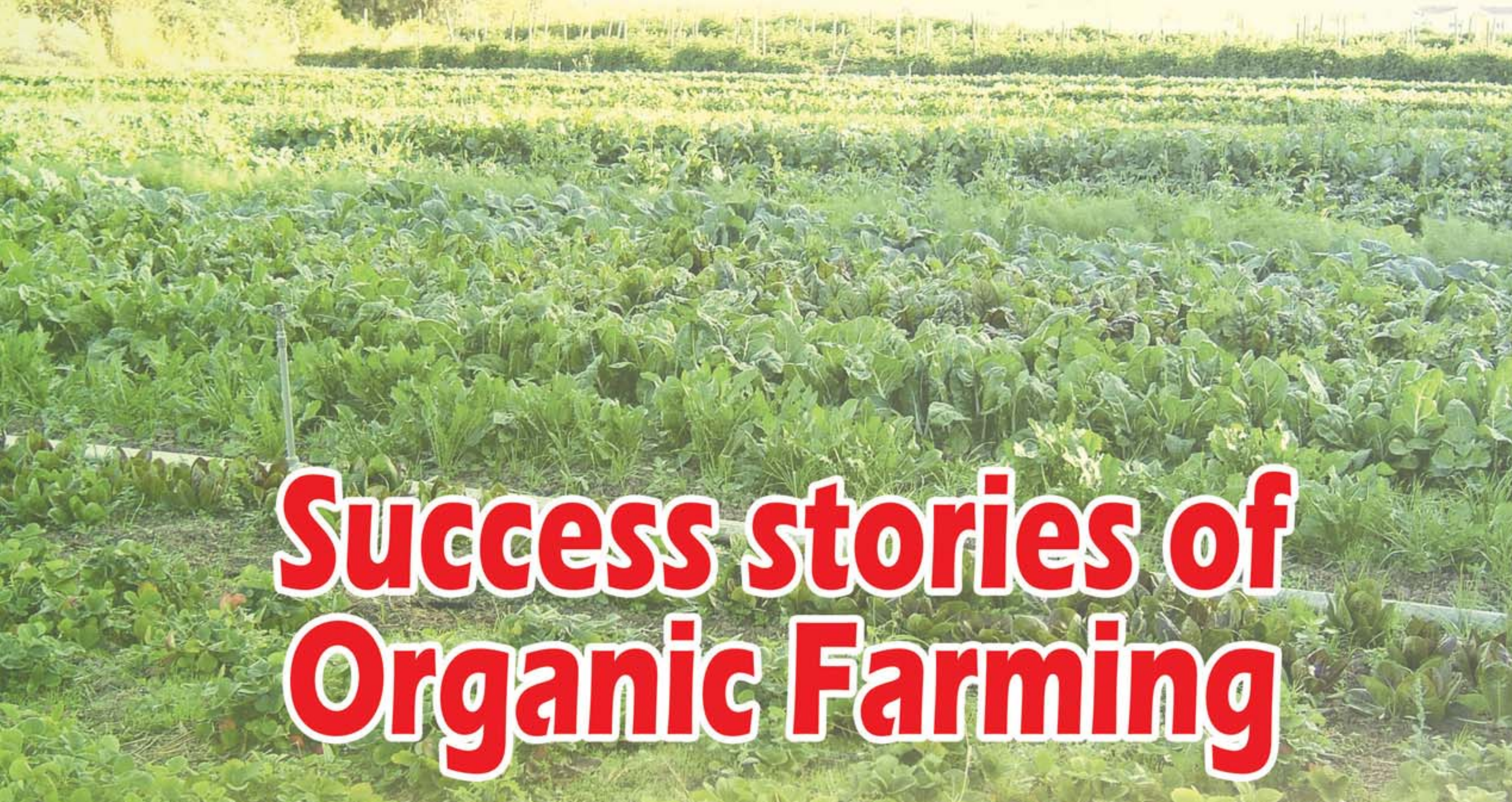
In passing, mention may be made of the two celebrated open-air bas-relief compositions of large group sculptures on the face of the massive rocks in Mahabalipuram. They are Arjuna's penance and the Govardhana- Krishna scenes. The compositions are both synoptic and narrative of the respective themes. Arjuna's penance depicts the scene of Siva granting to Arjuna as a boon the desired weapon – pasupata - sought by the latter through the performance of a severe penance. The depiction is after the description of the scene in Bharavi's Kiratarjuniya.

The Govardhana-Krishna scene depicts Krishna as holding up the hill to afford shelter to the displaced gopas and gopis with their children, cattle and other belongings, when they had to flee their homes as result of a great deluge of rain and stone brought down by the irate Indra. The depiction is quite powerful and realistic. A unique south Indian note is struck by the introduction of Krishna's favourite gopi, Nappinnai, huddling near him in the group and distinguished from the rest of the women in the scene by her dress, stance and attendant lady. The Krishna-Nappinnai theme is special to the earlier and contemporary Tamil literature and tradition.

-Temples of South India by K.R. Srinivasan

at Saluvankuppam, a hamlet to the north of Mahabalipuram, familiarly called 'tiger cave', and similar ornamental pavilions. These would stand apart from either group of cave temples described above. The Yali mandapam is a small, oblong, shallow pavilion, or mandapa, excavated on the eastern face of a boulder facing the sea with its moulded adhishthana and a facade of flanking pillars, which are adorned at their bases by rearing lions or vyalas, cut over a lower platform reached by a flight of steps.

The whole structure is surrounded by an arched frieze of eleven large vyala heads mistakenly called 'tiger heads'. To the south of the pavilion, and carved on the rock face are reliefs of two elephant fronts with howdahs over their necks, a dvajastambha in between, and horse at the south extreme. The northern face of the rock is roughly carved out into a large squatting lion-front with a small square niche cut into in its bosom, enshrining a relief panel of Mahishamardini. The Yali mandapam obviously served as resting-place of the processional idols or the royalty during festivals. This, even the name of the place -Tiruveluchchiyur - found in the inscriptions, would suggest. A smaller



Success stories of Organic Farming

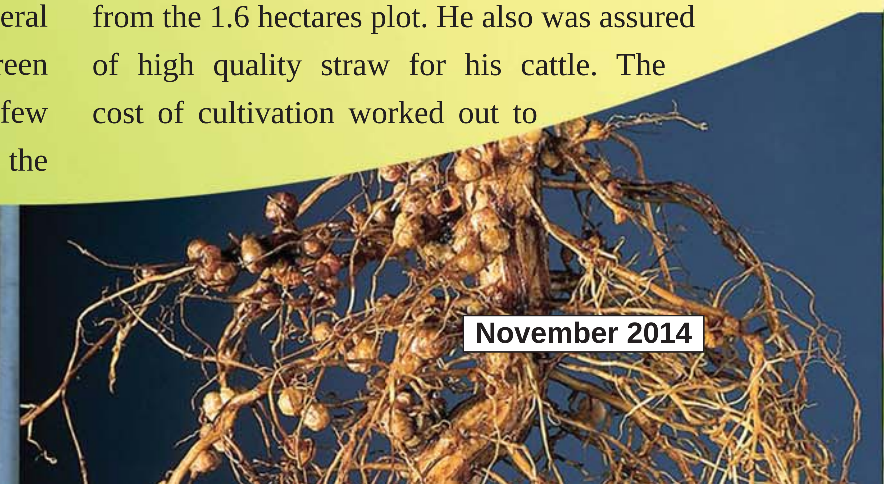
1. Eco-friendly technologies for rice cultivation

A sound package of eco-friendly technologies to grow rice is being successfully adopted by a few progressive farmers in Puliangudi Village in Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu. "The technologies work well with indigenous rice varieties such as Kichili Samba. The cost of cultivation is substantially reduced and the organic rice fetches a premium price in the market," says Mr. P. Gomathinayagam, a pioneer in organic farming in Puliangudi.

"I grew a medium-duration (140 days) Kichili Samba rice in about 1.6 hectares. The seeds were treated with Panchagavya, and the nursery was treated with plenty of tank silt and a host of organic amendments. Liberal quantities of tank silt were applied and green leaf manure was incorporated a few days ahead of the final ploughing. Biogas slurry was applied through irrigation when the seedlings were just establishing in the main field," he explained.

One round of spray with 3 per cent solution of Panchagavya was given 20 days after transplanting. On the 30th day, a combination of coconut milk and butter milk, mixed in equal volume, in ten times their volume of water was sprayed on the crop to promote active plant growth and tillering. On the 40th day, another round of spray with Panchagavya (3 per cent solution in high volume spray) was given. A bio-insect repellent was sprayed on the 45th day of transplantation.

The crop was regularly irrigated, and a grain yield of about 6 tonnes was expected from the 1.6 hectares plot. He also was assured of high quality straw for his cattle. The cost of cultivation worked out to



Rs. 14,000/- for 1.6 hectares. "I sell the output as organic rice at a rate of Rs. 30/- per kg and it makes organic rice cultivation more rewarding economically as well as environmentally," pointed out Mr. Gomathinayagam. He is championing the cause of organic farming in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu. Several farmers are following his advice.

"I adopted the organic rice farming technologies and harvested about 9.25 tonnes of paddy a hectare from the bold grained Trichi-1 variety. I dumped liberal quantities of daincha in the field and allowed it to decompose well in the field ahead of planting. There was no need for any plant protection also. The cost of cultivation worked out to Rs. 12,500/- per hectare. I also harvested plenty of healthy straw for our animals," said Mr. V. Antonysamy, a progressive farmer of Puliangudi village.

2. Eco-friendly method of setting up vermicompost unit

Vermicompost is the basic ingredient for successful organic farming. More than 85 per cent of organic crop cultivation depends on it. Usually farmers across the country build a roof either with thatched straw or asbestos sheets as a cover for their vermicompost manufacturing unit.

The bottom of the unit will either have sand or plain cement or sometimes toughened red soil.

A progressive organic farmer, Mr. D. Bharani of Mayiladuthurai taluk in Tamil Nadu's Nagapattinam district, has used local tree trunks for the four poles supporting his rudimentary compost unit.

Climbing tendrils

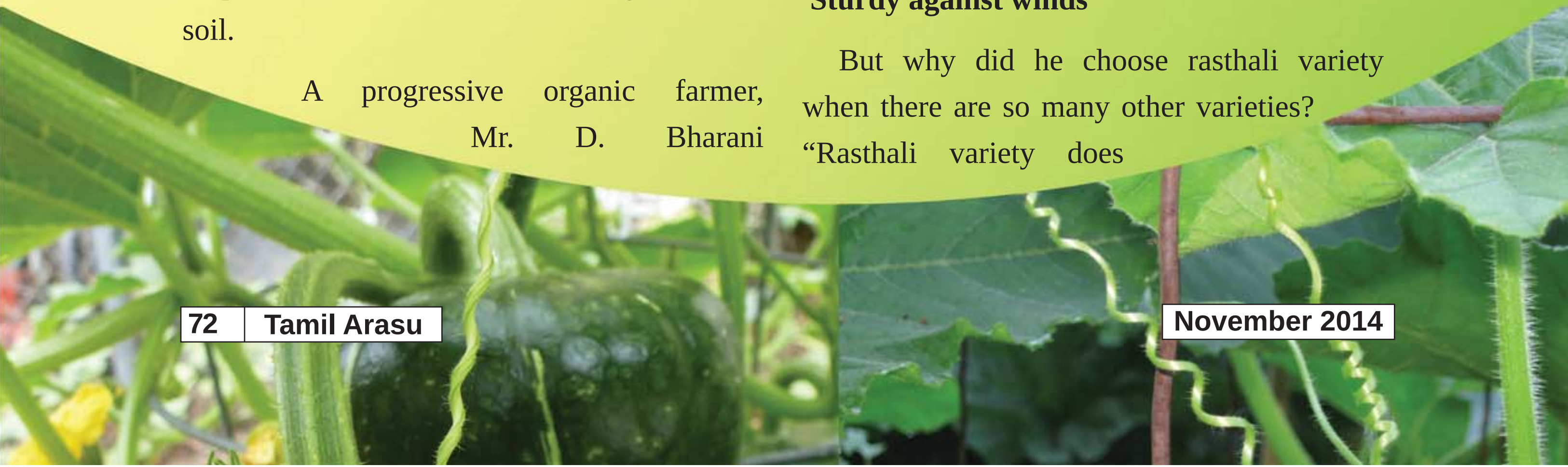
"The tree trunks absorb the moisture from the compost unit and grow as individual trees," he says. For the roof, he has used the climbing tendrils of vegetable plants growing near the compost unit.

The plants grow well, absorbing the required moisture from the unit and their leaves provide shade to the manufacturing unit."In addition to making the compost which I sell at Rs. 5-8 per kg, I am also able to sell vegetables such as bhindi, brinjal, snake gourd and bitter gourd grown on the roof of the compost shed," he says.

"Farmers, instead of spending money on constructing thatched sheds and asbestos, can follow simple methods like this. By doing so, they can get double income from the compost unit and the vegetables." He is also cultivating rasthali banana variety in about four acres. "Commercially, rasthali has a good demand in the market compared to other varieties and if consumers know that it is grown organically, then the farmer need not search for buyers. Buyers will search for him," he says.

Sturdy against winds

But why did he choose rasthali variety when there are so many other varieties? "Rasthali variety does



not grow quite high and is often sturdy against strong winds.” Strong winds often uproot banana trees and farmers have to tie each tree to a wooden pole to prevent the tree from falling or getting uprooted. “Secondly organic practices are found ideal for my banana orchard as banana is often found susceptible to wilt disease which is a major and fatal infestation.”

“Chemical control methods have not been found successful in controlling this infestation, compared to organic methods,” he explained.“I had purchased the suckers from known sources and from healthy trees. The suckers, before planting were dipped in a solution of 10 per cent Panchagavya and 50 gm of pseudomonas for 3-5 minutes. For an acre, about 780-800 pits of 8x8 (row to row and plant to plant) were dug and the suckers were planted in them. About 3 kg of Farm Yard Manure (FYM) was also applied in each pit.

Heat generation

The FYM was applied a little distance away from the pit, because if it were applied directly into the pit or near the suckers it would spoil the plant growth due to heat generation. Panchagavya spray was done once every month till the crop was about 5 months old. He was able to harvest his first yield in about 14 months after planting and this variety can be maintained for two years.

“One bunch was sold for Rs. 120- Rs.130 and I was able to get a net income of Rs. 80,000.” The expenditure for maintaining one tree comes to about Rs. 35/- and after deducting the expenses for all my plants I am still able to get a net profit of Rs. 50,000” he said.

For more information Mr. D. Bharani can be contacted at Kothangudi Village, Komal post, Mayiladuthurai Taluk, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu: 609-805, phone: 04364-228711 and 04364-237415 and mobile: 9486278569.

3. Ginger garlic extract:

A Bio-pesticide for organic cultivation

Organic practices avoid investment on costly chemicals Ms. Rajareega at her farm in Sivagangai District, Tamil Nadu seen manufacturing the botanical pesticides.

There is a growing body of evidence to suggest that in the past 4-5 decades there has been an excessive dumping of chemical toxins on the soil. As a result the soil in many places has become barren and the ground water toxic.

Contrast this with organic inputs that are safe, non-toxic, and cost much less. For example, if using chemical pesticides and fertilizers for growing a crop in a hectare works out to about Rs.6,000- Rs. 7,000 the cost of growing the same crop using organic inputs may come to only about Rs.500 - Rs. 1,000, according to Ms. Rajareega of Raasi organic farms at Muthupatti Village in Sivagangai District, Tamil Nadu.

Lower cost

Even if some critics say that organic farming cannot provide the same high yields as chemical farming, the organic farmers argue that at least their land is safe; that they have not invested in buying the chemicals and increasing their cost of cultivation. "If you look at the suicides by farmers, then you will understand that all those farmers who committed suicides have piled up huge debts.

The debts kept growing because of borrowing at high interest rates for buying these chemicals which promised to increase the yield. In the end, it only increased their debts," she explains.

"If only farmers use safer and natural pest repellents and manures then where is the question of debt and suicides?" she asks. She has been using only organic manures and bio-repellents made from locally available resources.

Five leaf extract

For example, she uses 5 different leaf extracts (aindhu ilai karaisal in Tamil) derived from Calotropis (called yerukku in Tamil), Jatropha curcas (kattu amanaku in Tamil), Neem (vembu in Tamil), Guduchhi/Amruth (seenthil kodi in Tamil), Chaste tree (nochi in Tamil), Malabar nut (adathoda in Tamil), Kalmegh (siriyanangai in Tamil), Clerodendron (peenarisanghu in Tamil) and Usil (arappu in Tamil). These plants are commonly found in all villages. About 1 kg of leaves from each plant is taken and powdered and then ground into a paste. It is then mixed with 5 litres of cow's urine.

The concoction is then diluted in 5 litres of water and left undisturbed for 5 days. When required for using about 500 ml of this concoction is diluted in 10 litres of water and sprayed over the plants, she explains.

Ginger garlic extract

Another tried and proven mixture she uses is ginger garlic extract (called inji poondu karaisal in Tamil). About 1 gm of ginger and garlic each, 2 gm of green chilli and 5 litres of cow's urine and water are taken. The garlic, ginger and green chilli are ground into a paste and mixed with cow's urine and water. After 10 days the mixture is filtered and used. The prescribed quantity is about 500 ml of this solution diluted in 10 litres of water which can be sprayed over the plants.

Ideal spraying time

The ideal time for spraying these karaisals is during 6 am to 8.30 am and between 4 pm and 6.30 pm. Depending upon the soil, crop and other climatic factors the concentration can be raised or lowered. Farmers can contact their nearby organic farmers who are using these karaisals or can contact Ms. Rajareega for guidelines regarding the concentration.

Effective control

Both the above karaisals have been found effective in controlling leaf roller, thrips, mealy

bugs, fruit, stem and bark borer, hairy caterpillar and aphids. Even if a farmer is not convinced about the benefits of organic inputs he can continue to grow his crops using chemicals, but at the same time he can set aside a small portion in his field to grow the same crop using organic inputs. By doing so he can find out for himself the cost benefit ratio. That itself can convince him of its efficacy.

Readers can contact Ms. Rajareega, Raasi organic farms, Muthupatti, via Kallal, A. Siruvayal (post), Sivagangai District, Tamil Nadu, email: rajareega@rediffmail.com, mobile: 9865582142 and phone: 04565-284937.

4. Organic farming in banana a profitable venture

Organic farming is the in-thing now in Thanjavur District- the rice bowl of Tamil Nadu. Having used chemical fertilizers for some years, farmers are now reverting to organic farming.

Nearly one hundred farmers of Thanjavur district were given a first-hand idea of how successful organic farming is by the Central Bank of India recently. They were taken to TARI high-tech horticulture farm at Marunkulam, where banana, maize and paddy were raised using organic farming.

According to Kulandaisamy, a progressive farmer and owner of TARI high-tech horticulture farm, organic farming helps to increase the yield and nutritive value. In his farm at Marunkulam, he has raised banana crop using organic fertilizers. He found that the yield and quality of the crop was good.

He has raised Rasthali and robust variety of bananas on 1.5 acres and three acres respectively in his farm adopting organic farming methods. With respect to Rasthali, a bunch has five to six hands (hands means seeppu in Tamil), instead of three to four hands, which are normally seen in ordinary cultivation.

The bunch has adequate space between hands and hence the fruit is big, says Mr. Kulandaisamy, pointing to the big bunch of bananas in his farm. A bunch weighs 20 kgs and fetches Rs. 200/-.In the case of Robust variety (green banana) he has resorted to a high density cultivation with 1,600 plants in an acre. In the case of Rasthali he has gone for 1,000 plants in an acre.

Robust variety of banana has 12 to 15 hands in a bunch and the bunch weighs 30 to 35 kgs. Fertilizer used by Kulandaisamy was composed organic matters, neem, Panchagavya prepared using cow’s urine, cow dung, etc.

As a farmer who is practising integrated farming, he has a dairy farm from where he produces Panchagavya and uses the cow dung generated in the dairy for organic farming.

What about marketing of bananas produced under organic farming?

They fetch a premium price and already a shop in Chennai selling organic produce has booked for bananas. He is also selling the bananas to Tiruchi market.

He has also gone for maize in two acres of land under organic farming and paddy in two acres under organic farming.

He says that 'Rasthali', which is normally prone to wilt attack is free from the disease in organic farming. "There is a tendency even now among farmers to go for chemcial fertilisers. This has to be discouraged and they should be enlightened about organic farming," says Mr. Kulandaisamy.

Another unique feature of Mr. Kulandaisamy is that he produces liquid bio-fertilizers. He has put up a plant under the New Anna Marumalarchi Scheme for Rs.1 crore and is producing liquid bio-fertilizers. An innovative farmer, Kulandaisamy has raised Vanilla on one acre of land.

He has spent Rs.9 lakh for infrastructure alone to raise the sensitive crop. The crop is irrigated using micro-sprinklers under a shade net in a conditioned atmosphere. "Vanilla can be a profit-oriented venture when raised as an inter-crop in coconut," says Kulandaisamy.

5. Organic practices for increasing mango yield

Mango trees respond well to organic manure applications. Organic manures such as vermicompost, Panchagavya and vermiwash are used for promoting healthy tree growth and fruit formation.

Essential nutrients

From the initial planting stages to caring of full-grown trees, Panchagavya and vermicompost can be effectively used to supply essential nutrients to the trees and prevent pest infestations, according to Dr. S. Sundaravadivel, Vermitechnologist and Environmentalist based in Chennai. Vermicompost is prepared by using earthworms. Vermiwash is the liquid collected after the passage of water through a column of activated earthworms. It is very useful as an organic spray for all crops.

Pest repellent

Panchagavya is an organic growth promoter, which is prepared by mixing cow dung, cow urine, cow's milk, curd and ghee in suitable proportions, and is sprayed on the plants. It contains several macro, micronutrients, beneficial bacteria and fungi, which aid in growth promotion and act as effective pest repellents.

It can be prepared by thoroughly mixing five kilos of fresh cow dung and one litre of cow's ghee in a plastic or cement tank or earthen pot. The mixture is stirred daily for three to four days. "About three litres of cow's milk, two litres of cow's curd, three litres of sugarcane juice, three litres of tender coconut water and 10 to12 bananas are mixed well and added to the mixture. The entire concoction is allowed to ferment for fifteen days," says Dr. S. Sundaravadivel.

The container should be covered with a net (or) cotton cloth to allow aeration of the fermenting unit, according to him. The concoction is stirred two or three times a day for about fifteen days and then used. For mango

trees of about 6-7 years age, vermicompost may be applied at the rate of 10 kilograms per tree and one litre of Panchagavya diluted in 30 litres of water may be sprayed over the foliage (crown) and at the base of the tree. Spraying Panchagavya over the crown and at the base of the tree must be done four to five times, according to Dr. Sundaravadivel. The first spraying must be done before the flowering season (January-March) to increase flower formation.

A second spraying must be done after 15-20 days. The process must be repeated till the flowers turn into small-sized buds. Once the buds start forming then the application can be done once a month, according to him. Use of Panchagavya and vermicompost has been found to increase the size, number and enhance the colour of the fruits.

Recommended practice

The recommended practice for one hectare of mango trees is about 25 litres of Panchagavya (mixed in 750-800 litres of water) and four to five tonnes of vermicompost. Spraying Panchagavya has been found effective in the control of fruit fly menace, a common infestation in all fruit bearing trees, according to Dr. Sundaravadivel. According to him, trees treated with organic manures bore large-sized leaves and formed a dense canopy with profuse rooting systems. The taste and shelf life of the fruits were also found to be more satisfactory.

Nitrogen-fixing bacteria

"The interaction of the root hairs of these trees with the organic manures also increased the activity of the nitrogen-fixing bacteria in the soil."

"The organic manures also act as a carrier medium for the development of several beneficial micro organisms such as azospirillum, azotobacter, rhizobium and phosphobacteria," he said. Dr. S. Sundaravadivel can be reached by mobile at 98843-90104, and email: sundaravadivel66@hotmail.com.

6. Alphonso mango ideal for organic farming

Alphonso, the king of mango varieties, does well under organic farming conditions in Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts of Tamil Nadu, and its full potential should be exploited by the small and marginal farmers in the districts, says Mr. S. S. Nagarajan, Vice President (Agricultural Research), TAFE (Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited), Chennai.

An authority on mango cultivation, and a pioneer in establishing the largest 'Rumani' orchard in Kancheepuram district at 'J-Farm', Kelambakkam, Mr. Nagarajan has successfully demonstrated the promises held out by the superior mango variety 'Alphonso'. "After working with 'Rumani' variety in the last thirty five years, I shifted my focus to 'Alphonso' variety in 1998, and it has done exceedingly well in the farm. It responded favourably to drip irrigation and organic inputs, and yielded high quality sweet fruits of attractive aroma," explains Mr. Nagarajan. In about 0.8 hectares in 'J-Farm' he planted 140 Alphonso grafts got from a nursery in Dharmapuri District. This variety is suited for high density planting, and it will make up for the low yields in the initial few years of bearing.

''The regular bearing commences from the ninth or tenth year of planting," he points out. Every young plant was regularly manured in August with liberal quantities of ripe farmyard manure along with 400 gm each of Azospirillum and Phosphobacterium. Drip irrigation to provide 25 litres of water per tree per day was established. All other regular orchard practices such as clipping the sprouts below the graft union, weeding and hoeing in the basins, and ploughing the interspaces and plant protection with eco-friendly botanical insecticides were adopted.

"During the first five years Daincha was raised as rainfed crop, and ploughed in situ as an organic nutrient supplement. Groundnut was grown as an irrigated crop in the interspaces, and haulms were incorporated in to the soil as green leaf manure. Of the 140 trees, 112 trees started yielding in the fifth year after planting, and on an average each tree yielded about 70 fruits each weighing about 250 g. In all about 2000 kg fruits were harvested and it fetched Rs. 12 per kg at the farm gate. The gross income in the first year of bearing is Rs. 24,000, and the cost of cultivation in the first five years worked out to Rs. 24,000'', he said.

"The fruits were of superior quality, and they were sweet and free of spongy tissues. The results were quite encouraging," says Mr. Nagarajan. The trees would yield as high as 3000 kg from the 0.8 hectares from the sixth year of planting, and it would fetch a handsome profit to the growers. As the tree grows, the yield will go up, and a thirty year-old tree would produce as much as 2,500 quality fruits, according to him. 'J-Farm' has perfected the organic farming practices for raising Alphonso mango, and the farmers should benefit from it, according to him. Farmers, however, should avoid using chemical fertilizers and fruiting hormones to get quick returns from the variety, as they may prove harmful in the long run, he says "Alphonso is an excellent variety for export and if grown organically, its value in the export market will go up significantly," explains Mr. Nagarajan.

Source: TNAU Agritech Portal (agritech.tnau.ac.in)

The Mango Tree

Once upon a time, there lived a big mango tree. A little boy loved to come and play around it everyday.

He climbed to the tree top, ate the mangoes, took a nap under the shadow… He loved the tree and the tree loved to play with him.

Time went by… The little boy grew, and he no longer played around the tree.

One day, the boy came back to the tree with a sad look on his face.

“Come and play with me,” the tree asked the boy.

“I am no longer a kid, I don’t play around trees anymore.” The boy replied, “I want toys. I need money to buy them.”

“Sorry, I don’t have money… but you can pick all my mangoes and sell them so you will have money.”

The boy was so excited. He picked all the mangoes on the tree and left happily. The boy didn’t come back. The tree was sad.

One day, the boy grown into a man returned. The tree was so excited.

“Come and play with me,” the tree said.

“I don’t have time to play. I have to work for my family. We need a house for shelter. Can you help me?”

“Sorry, I don’t have a house, but you can chop off my branches to build your house.”

So the man cut all the branches off the tree and left happily. The tree was glad to see him happy but the boy didn’t come back afterward. The tree was again lonely and sad.

One hot summer day, the man returned and the tree was delighted.

“Come and play with me!” The tree said.

“I am sad and getting old. I want to go sailing to relax myself. Can you give me a boat?”

“Use my trunk to build your boat. You can sail far away and be happy.”

So the man cut the tree trunk to make a boat. He went sailing and didn’t come back for a long time.

Finally, the man returned after he had been gone for so many years.

"Sorry, my boy, but I don't have anything for you anymore. No more mangoes to give you." The tree said.

"I don't have teeth to bite," the man replied.

"No more trunk for you to climb on."

"I am too old for that now," the man said.

"I really can't give you anything… the only thing left is my dying roots," the tree said with sadness.

"I don't need much now, just a place to rest. I am tired after all these years," the man replied.

"Good! Old tree roots are the best place to lean on and rest. Come sit down with me and rest."

The boy sat down and the tree was glad and smiled.

(The tree in the story represents our parents. When we are young, we love to play with them. When we grow up, we leave them and only come back when we need help. Parents sacrifice their lives for us).

-***The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein***

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